

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 13, 2017

East edition No 777

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Praise our campaigners even if you don't agree

IN this week's paper we take a look at why Kent doesn't have an Olympic-sized swimming pool, when many other counties across the country have three or four.

Campaigners say there is unquestionable demand for it and that promising young talent is being held back because their parents have to drive thousands of miles a month to other facilities in London or neighbouring counties.

However, the cost of such a facility would no doubt be extraordinary and one has to wonder if it would truly be of benefit for the whole county, rather than a select few.

However, the spirit of campaigning itself is an absolute cornerstone of democracy, and it's something we see regularly in our great county, with new ideas and developments delighting some, but creating fear and anxiety among others.

This week's edition also reports on claims by the Port of Dover that a campaign bid to stop the dredging of the famous Goodwin Sands could cost the local economy a whopping

half a billion pounds in jobs and tourism.

Likewise, we've seen hard-fought campaigns against huge infrastructure projects such as the planned Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend or the proposed lorry park to tackle the problems caused by Operation Stack in Stanford.

Whether you agree with any of these campaigns or not personally, the fact we have people in our society who will fight so hard for their cause can only be a good thing, as it eliminates complacency and forces those in power to really listen to people and the concerns that they may have.

That fighting spirit and constant desire to better ourselves is one of our greatest attributes and having long and sometimes complex conversations about these key issues which will affect all our lives is surely the right way to go.

Even if you personally disagree on a specific issue, we should commend the invaluable work of our local campaigners.

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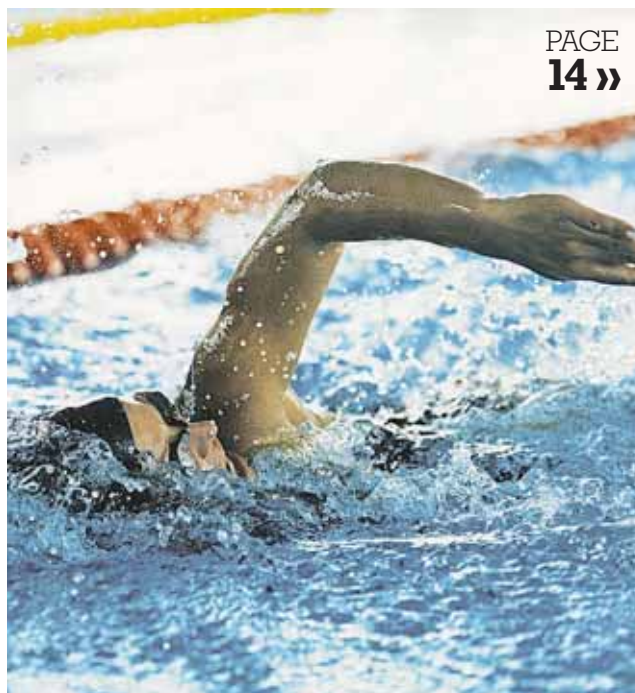
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War of words continues over children's centres

By Tom Pyman

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THE war of words between Labour and Conservative councillors in Medway continued this week as the local authority rubber-stamped controversial children's centre plans.

The Tory-led council had consulted the public over proposals to close all 19 of the borough's Sure Start centres.

However, there was a widespread backlash to the plans, with Labour frontbencher Angela Raynor describing them as "an absolute scandal".

Last week it was revealed the cabinet would be recommended to approve new plans to maintain 13 centres in total - nine as 'wellbeing centres' and four as 'super hubs', which aim to bring a range of services under one roof.

Council chiefs gave the green light on Tuesday but the decision was 'called in' by members on both sides of the chamber, meaning the plans will be scrutinised by a committee.

Labour's spokesman for children and young people, Adam Price,



CONTROVERSIAL: Plans for the future of Medway's Sure Start centres have proved divisive

said: "This latest proposal looks to have been worked out on the back of an envelope. There has been no consultation on this alternative plan.

"There were originally only three scenarios on the table. Medway Tories repeatedly told us that there could be no other option.

"They dismissed our attempts to include a status quo option, yet at the eleventh hour they have pulled another cynical stunt to prevent

proper scrutiny.

"All that is clear from this muddled decision is that six vital centres will close and 15 skilled workers will lose their jobs.

"With such a short gap between the consultation closing and this new proposal being unveiled it raises suspicion that 'option G' was their plan all along."

Council leader Alan Jarrett said: "Medway Conservatives have been appalled at the callous manner in

which the Labour group has used vulnerable people for its own political ends. We have listened to the views of those who engaged in the consultation, and are delighted to be moving forward with a model that shall provide exceptional universal service.

"This business case will ensure our early help services are delivered in a flexible and effective manner to ensure the very best outcomes for all families."

Mum-of-three shot in Brazilian favela while family looked for water

A MUM-OF-THREE from Gravesend was treated in hospital in Brazil this week after she was reportedly shot while her family were looking for water.

Eloise Dixon and her family were travelling in Angra dos Reis, a popular coastal holiday destination about 90 miles from Rio de Janeiro, on Sunday when they strayed into a rough neighbourhood, according to local reports.

They said a bullet missed all of her major vessels and organs and she is recovering well, however, doctors in South America say she was lucky to escape alive.

Mrs Dixon, who attended Northfleet School for Girls and West Kent College in Tonbridge before moving with her family to Bromley, is understood to have been shot following a language mix-up.

It saw the family, which also included Mrs Dixon's partner and their three children, directed to the Agua Santa neighbourhood, which

translates to Holy Water, local press said.

Authorities said a group approached the car at a favela and apparently told the family to get out and then opened fire.

A police statement said the woman was hit in the abdomen and was being treated in hospital.

Mrs Dixon's mother-in-law, Hazel Dixon, told the Mirror how her son Max, a Bromley firefighter and former paratrooper dealt with the situation.

"He's just the right person for that to happen to because his Army training will have kicked in immediately," she said.

"I can't think of anyone who'd be more on the ball in that situation."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are assisting the family of a British woman who has been hospitalised in Angra dos Reis, Brazil."

He added: "Our staff remain in contact with the local authorities."

Sight-saving operation at Kent & Canterbury hospital

SURGEONS at Kent and Canterbury Hospital have successfully carried out a sight-saving operation that would normally require the patient travelling to the capital.

The operation - known as Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) - is a type of corneal transplant that is less invasive than previous techniques.

Patients recover more quickly

from the procedure and their vision is enhanced.

Consultant Nick Kopsachilis said: "By having the DMEK operation in Canterbury, patients can be treated swiftly without having to travel to London. And by carrying out such procedures locally, we're enhancing the reputation of East Kent Hospitals for ophthalmic expertise."

Sittingbourne man charged over charity shop break-in

DETECTIVES investigating a break-in at a charity shop in Sittingbourne have arrested and charged a man.

The incident at the Friends of the Wisdom Hospice in High Street happened on either July 28 or 29.

It was reported that a safe, its contents and some jewellery had been stolen from the property after damage was caused to a window.

Lee Heathfield, 33, of East Street, Sittingbourne, was arrested at his home address on Tuesday August 8 and has since been charged with four counts of burglary.

He was remanded in custody when he appeared before Medway magistrates on Thursday and he will next appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday September 7.



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Building work begins to make Bridgefield Park

RECREATION facilities for Bridgefield and Kingsnorth are one-step closer after Ashford Borough Council received the transfer of land from developers.

In July, housing developers Taylor Wimpey and Persimmons

Homes transferred ownership of the 11-hectare land to the council.

Works on the space have now begun and it is anticipated that the park will be open to the public by spring 2018.

Bridgefield Park will include an

adventure play area, a community orchard, and walking and cycling paths.

Councillor Mike Bennett, portfolio holder for culture, said: "We hope it will enhance the quality of life for our local residents and provide an enjoyable space."



VESSEL: Available next month

River bus to trial service into London

A RIVER bus service from Gravesend to central London will be trialed for four days next month.

MBNA Thames Clippers will bring its 220-capacity vessel to Kent and offer journeys direct into the capital from Monday, September 11 until Thursday, September 14.

For the trial, there will be one sailing in the morning at 7.15am and one in the evening departing from Embankment at 5.40pm.

The service will pick up at the town's pontoon and have drop off points at Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge, Blackfriars and Embankment.

MBNA Thames Clippers will be offering the trial for free but it asks people to book onto the service so bosses can take into account the numbers on board.

The service from Gravesend to Embankment will take about one hour and 10 minutes, with the journey to Canary Wharf just 48 minutes and in return for the free journey, MBNA Thames Clippers is asking that customers fill in a questionnaire on their experiences and the sort of service they would like to see if it were to become permanent.

Tickets available at thamesclippers.com/offers/detail/gravesend

Father 'totally let down' as government approves Noye's prison transfer

By Tom Pyman

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THE father of murdered Stephen Cameron feels "totally let down" after the government approved plans to move his son's killer to an open prison.

Bexleyheath-born Kenneth Noye, now 70, was convicted of murder in April 2000 and sentenced to life with a minimum term of 16 years, after stabbing the 21-year-old electrician from Dartford to death in an attack on the M25 in Kent in 1996.

Last month, Mr Cameron's father, Ken, called on ministers to "do the right thing" and block the transfer after it was recommended by Noye's parole board, however justice secretary David Lidington accepted the verdict on Tuesday.

Speaking to The Mirror, he slammed the government's decision to move Noye to a lower security prison: "I feel totally let down. I've had a few tears. That's not justice for Stephen."



KILLER: Kenneth Noye

"In open prison Noye will have day trips out and can go home for Christmas. That's not justice. I'm gutted."

"I was told he's been a really good boy, has done an anger management

course and rehabilitation courses so he doesn't reoffend."

"He says what they want to hear and knows how to play the game because he's spent half his life in prison. The justice system has let us down. He had a fight with Stephen, he instigated it but Stephen gave him a good hiding so he went to his car to get a knife."

"He could have driven off but decided to go back and murder Stephen. He should be in for at least 25 years."

A plan will now be drawn up for the timing of the transfer, which is expected to take place within six weeks, while officials will also weigh up where Noye will be moved to. Transfers from higher security categories to open conditions are generally part of a long-term path towards release, depending on the prisoner's progress in a number of areas.

Offenders' suitability for returning to the community are tested by exposing them to conditions more similar to those they would encounter on the outside.

Elderly man crashes car into side of house

FIREFIGHTERS were called to Tunbridge Wells on Friday morning after an elderly man crashed his car into the side of a property.

The incident took place in Hasletts Close at around 11.30am, and two fire engines attended the scene, along with all other emergency services.

The elderly driver had managed to get out of the vehicle by the time crews arrived, but was administered first aid.

The man was then handed into the care of ambulance crews, but he is not thought to have needed hospital admittance, or to have been seriously injured.

Firefighters then checked the property's garage and porch for structural damage.

Reasons as to why the crash occurred have not been reported, and no one else is thought to have been injured.

Emergency services left the scene at 12.12pm after deeming the area safe.

Bafta-nominated star charged by officers

A BAFTA-NOMINATED actor who starred in Romeo and Juliet has been charged with possessing a fake gun at a pub in Faversham.

John McNery, 73, is accused of inciting fear of violence at the Leading Light in Preston Street on Tuesday morning.

Armed officers descended on the scene after being called at 8.22am and made an arrest shortly before 12pm in the Faversham Creek area.

No injuries were reported during the incident.

The actor was nominated for his role as Mercutio in Franco Zeffirelli's adaptation of the Shakespeare classic in 1968 and has also appeared in films such as Nicholas and Alexandra, The Land That Time Forgot, The Krays, and Bartleby, where he took the title role and starred opposite Paul Scofield.

Most recently he appeared in Girl with a Pearl Earring in 2003.

Mr McNery, of no fixed address, has been bailed to appear before Maidstone magistrates on Friday, August 25.

Chelsea or Man City? Vote with your butts

SMOKERS in Thanet are being urged to have their say on who will win the Premier League as part of a scheme to tackle littering.

With the top flight football season kicking off this weekend, council bosses have introduced bright yellow bins, aiming to encourage people to bin their cigarette butt rather than drop it on the floor.

The bins are designed to draw attention by providing smokers with two options in answering a topical question - using their butt to cast a vote.

When used in other locations across the UK, including the borough of Swale, the bins have helped cut litter by as much as 46 per cent - particularly when the bin's question is directed at young males.

Following the launch on Friday, two of the voting bins will appear in various locations across the district, with the first question asking whether Chelsea or Manchester City will win the Premier League title.

The questions on the bins are fully customisable and can be changed regularly.

Jail terms for family who ran huge £1.4m gold fraud scam

By Luke May

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A FAMILY described as a "magnet for criminality" have been jailed for running a £1.4million gold fraud scam.

Brian Maltman, 55, Kim Maltman, 56, and their son Daniel Maltman, all from Romford in Essex were caught out after a car used in burglaries around Dartford was linked back to them.

On May 24, 2016, a Mini Cooper with a fake licence plate had been used in jewellery burglaries in Main Road, Longfield and Rosedale Close in Dartford.

At 5pm the same day, the car's driver opened the door onto a passing vehicle in Romford.

The stolen Mini fled the scene and was found dumped at a nearby estate, where witnesses saw the suspects cleaning the car down and being picked up by a second vehicle which was registered to the Maltmans.

Police stormed the Maltmans' home and found all of the stolen jewellery from both Dartford burglaries, along with other items thought to have been stolen across the country.

Paperwork then revealed the family had been doing business with a smelting company, paying large amounts of cash in hand.



GUILTY: The Maltmans did business with a smelting company

All three family members were arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods and money laundering offences.

Brian Maltman was arrested again in January after he was found carrying £60,000 worth of gold.

Further investigation by officers from both Kent Police and Essex Police identified three burglars that the family had contact with, those three men were charged with various burglary offences in which stolen jewellery was then passed onto the Maltman family

before it was melted down.

Albie Kelly, 23 of Rainham in Essex admitted three counts of burglary, which included the Dartford burglaries and stealing the Mini Cooper.

Brian and Daniel Maltman were both found guilty of money laundering and handling stolen goods and were jailed for 10 and six years respectively.

Kim Maltman will serve four years in prison having been found guilty of money laundering.

Dame Kelly opens up over mental health

DOUBLE Olympic champion and local business-woman Dame Kelly Holmes will lift the lid on her struggles with mental health at a new show in Tunbridge Wells next month.

Dame Kelly, who owns Cafe 1809 in Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, will be sharing her experience at the Health and Wellbeing Live show at The Secret Manor, Mabledon on Saturday, September 23.

Lifeboat crew rush to assist motor cruiser

AN all-weather RNLI lifeboat rushed into action on Monday afternoon after a motor cruiser reported a suspected engine compartment fire off the coast of Margate.

Crews put extinguishers on board, isolated the boat's electrical system and confirmed there were no injuries as a result.

£1.5m road opened

A £1.5m road improving access to more of Kent Medical Campus was officially opened by the mayor of Maidstone, Malcolm Greer this week.

The road, called Gidds Pond Way, links Newnham Court Way with the next phase of the campus to be developed, and connects to the site of the £18m Cygnet Health Care development, where construction is already well under way.

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Fury over 'Send me nudes' sign at Missguided store

A CONTROVERSIAL sign which outraged shoppers at Bluewater branded "sexist" has been removed after a petition gathered thousands of signatures earlier this week.

The neon pink sign, which read 'Send me nudes x', was glowing at the back of Missguided, a clothing store for teenage girls and women.

More than 9,000 people signed a petition addressed to the shop, which demanded: "Respect Girls More - Take Down Your Sign".

Campaigner Rachel Gardner said: "Teenage girls feel under increasing pressure to create and send nude pictures of themselves.

"In posting 'Send me nudes' in their store, Missguided are promoting a negative and damaging culture. Instead, they should be empowering young women to



value their intrinsic value and express their uniqueness through the art of fashion."

A spokesperson from Bluewater confirmed the sign had been removed, after staff had initially

covered it following the social media frenzy it stirred.

Missguided was contacted for comment several times but did not respond at the time of going to press.

Thousands flock to Dino Live at shopping centre

SOME 175,000 visitors have already flocked to west Kent's largest shopping centre for its unique dinosaur event.

Dino Live at Royal Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells runs throughout the school holidays until Bank Holiday Monday on August 28, and is described as a first for Kent.

The first weekend saw a 10 per cent increase in visitors on last year, as visitors were taken on a journey spanning more than 250 million years.

The event consists of a series of scenes located throughout the shopping centre where the dinosaurs are displayed in environments replicating their natural habitat.

Marc Burchett, marketing manager of Royal Victoria Place said: "Dino Live has proved to

be a big hit during its opening week and has really exceeded our expectations.

"We have seen not only local families come to see the event but also visitors from across the south east region. The dinosaurs are certainly proving to be very popular and it's great to see the smiles on the faces of everyone that sees them."

Karen Pengelly, Royal Tunbridge Wells' Town Centre manager added: "It's great to see that Royal Victoria Place are staging such a high profile and engaging event through the all-important summer holiday period.

"Town centres have to work hard to attract visitors and Dino Live is a great reason to visit Tunbridge Wells this summer."

Hospice appoints chair

HEART of Kent Hospice, in Aylesford near Maidstone, has appointed Jim Barker-McCaule as chair of the Board of Trustees.

"It is the most uplifting environment to be in and all day, every day, extraordinary people do extraordinary things to help and treat extraordinary people," he said.

Drink-driving arrests

KENT Police officers have arrested 171 people in a month during a crackdown on motorists who drive after drinking or taking drugs. The campaign coincided with the start of the summer when there is generally an increase in traffic passing through the county.

Tools stolen from vans

BUILDERS and tradesmen are being reminded not to keep valuable items in their vehicles overnight after tools were reported stolen from vans in Margate this week.

Ford Transits were reported broken into between Sunday and Monday in Argyle Gardens and Shottendane Road.

Letterbox fire probe

FEARS "flammable liquid" was intentionally poured through a Dover home's letterbox and then ignited are now under investigation. Crews were called to Kitchener Road on Sunday, after the front door of a property was alight and had spread inside to the hallway carpet.

UK 2017/2018 Holidays

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Tragic Channel swimmer

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A SWIMMER who died while trying to cross the Channel was "doing what he loved best to the very end", his family have said.

Loved ones announced on social media on Tuesday that Douglas Waymark died in hospital after being rescued from the water by coastguard crews on Monday evening when he got into difficulty 12 miles off the coast of Dover.

In a statement posted on Facebook, sister Jo Ikel said: "For all those following the recent updates, Douglas Waymark has not completed his Channel swim."

"Last night he felt he could no longer continue his quest and swam to the boat supporting him."

"He passed out and was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Ashford. At around midnight, he sadly died."

"We are all devastated but take comfort in him doing what he loved best to the very end."

Mr Waymark, who is in his 40s, was attempting the Enduroman Arch 2 Arc Triathlon, a continuous challenge from Marble Arch in London to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

A spokesman for the Maritime and



RESCUE: A Coastguard helicopter lifted Douglas Waymark from the water but he died in hospital

Coastguard Agency said: "At around 9.20pm, UK Coastguard received a VHF Radio call from a support vessel reporting that a cross-Channel swimmer was in difficulty and needed assistance. The vessel was in French waters around 12 nautical miles from Dover."

"The UK Coastguard search and rescue helicopter based at Lydd,

which was training nearby, arrived on scene within 10 minutes and airlifted the swimmer to William Harvey Hospital, Ashford."

Kent Police confirmed the death is not being treated as suspicious.

In his own Facebook post last Thursday, Mr Waymark said: "It's an 87 mile run to Dover, swim the Channel and then cycle the 182 mile to

Paris. This will arguably be the toughest thing I have ever attempted just 25 people have completed it and of the last six attempts none have been successful."

"When I actually start is weather dependant but I am hoping to get going on Friday night [or in the] early hours of Saturday assuming there will be a swim window on Sunday."

Roof struck by lightning

RESIDENTS in Ashford were dramatically evacuated from their flats on Tuesday night after the building roof was struck by lightning.

Four fire engines and a height vehicle were sent to the address of a three storey property in Waltham Place, Stanhope, and crews battled torrential rain to extinguish the blaze.

All residents were accounted for and there were no reported injuries, however the occupant of one of the flats needed rehousing, initially it was thought three additional flats might be temporarily uninhabitable.

McDonald's stab charge

POLICE investigating a stabbing at a Gravesend McDonald's have kept an 18-year-old man in custody after a court hearing last week.

Aiden St Louis of Lewis Crescent, Margate, has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of an offensive weapon and after appearing in court on Friday, was remanded ahead of a second hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on September 1.

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Day 3: Today we visit the island's capital Newport and also the seaside town of Ryde. Which has one of England's oldest pleasure Piers.

Day 4: Today is left free for you to relax and explore Sandown at your own pace.

Day 5: It's time to go home, unfortunately!

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How police will ensure safety with their drones

The force announced earlier this year it was going to start using the remote controlled devices for some incidents

FROM technical miracle to modern day nuisance and invaders of privacy - the drone has had a bizarre history.

The remote controlled flying machines took the world by storm just a short few years ago when short videos of 'quadcopters' appeared in on-line videos.

People marvelled at the way they could hover and fly in formation.

Now, it seems, they are the pariah of the air with many complaining of their noise and even worse, their ability to spy on others thanks to the miniaturisation of modern high definition cameras, all operated by people a mile away who can use those cams to navigate.

They can be made to hover outside bedroom windows, gaze at people sun bathing in their gardens, and pry into our private lives. They have also been used to make illegal 'deliveries' into prisons. There was even a report North Korea is using them to spy on South Korea.

With the announcement earlier this summer that Kent Police has now acquired one, fitted with a cam-

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

era of course, KoS decided to take a closer look at these unmanned aerial vehicles.

Anyone who plays military style video games will be well aware of the UAV, but are they really a menace to civilian society?

Some think they are, and government recently drew up a whole raft of rules required to use one - rules that are governed by the Civil Aviation Authority.

While keeping an eye on Britain's entire aviation industry, the CAA also has to take care of issues arising from the use of what many people still regard as toys.

Not that they are cheap - it is very easy to spend four figures on a fully equipped drone.

So what are the general rules enforced by the CAA?

Authority bosses told us: "Essentially, drones should not be flown above 400ft and should remain in the direct visual line of



CONTROVERSIAL: Some argue that drones invade our privacy

sight of the operator.

"Additionally, they should not be flown within two miles of an airport.

"Most commercially available drones are fitted with a camera. If it does have a camera then the drone must also be kept more than 50 metres away from buildings, people, vehicles or structures not within the operator's control.

"Misusing one is illegal. The rules form part of the Air Navigation Order, any breaches of which are deemed to be criminal offences.

"Details on any prosecutions are dealt with by the police, but we are aware of several successful prosecutions for the misuse of drones."

However, it seems there is a loophole here, because enforcement of drone use is simply not done.

Because they can be launched and landed from pretty much any location, it is of course impossible for each flight to be inspected to ensure all the rules are adhered to.

The CAA openly admits: "Drone use is currently not actively monitored", but when asked if they are becoming a menace, chiefs added: "We support the safe use of drones."

There are some who want yet more regulations to monitor drone flights, and there has been talk of making it mandatory for them to be fitted with GPS tracking systems that also include a unique registration that can be read at distance.

This would allow ground monitoring of flights and if one did stray into a forbidden area of air space, inspectors could identify the drone and its owner.

However, this would also produce a whole new raft of red tape bureaucracy which would be once again very expensive to fully monitor.

The CAA said: "Any changes to the existing rules will be made by the UK government not the CAA."

Kent Police introduced their DJI

Inspire 1 drone on June 5 at a cost of £4,000 for the UAV and accessories and a further £2,500 for "initial costs towards training, qualifications and authorisations".

The force said: "The officers who will be operating it have been trained by an external NQE training provider who are qualified with the Civil Aviation Authority.

"We hold a 'Permission For Aerial Work' licence which has been issued to us by the CAA."

It will be used for jobs including searching large areas for vulnerable missing people, helping manage critical incidents, locating hiding suspects and capturing aerial images to help with emergency and events planning.

Aware of the negative aspects of drones, the police superficially says it will "not be used to spy on anyone" with images deleted after 31 days if not required, and it will "not be used for general patrol".

David Hebditch director of Ashford-based Aerial Pro Media told us: "We need to take safety extremely seriously and do risk assessments of every flight.

"But people can just pop down their high street and buy one and fly it anywhere without any knowledge of the rules.

"They can be quite large with many long sharp blades. You sometimes see them being flown over crowded beaches - if a motor goes down, the drone will just fall out of the sky and possibly cause serious injury.

"We do welcome any regulations if they increase safety, including having drones registered and fitted with systems that let them be identified from the ground.

"So if the operator is them using them illegally, they can be traced."

There are some no-fly zones in Kent, including around all our air-

ports like Manston, Rochester, Lydd, and Lashenden, plus so-called High Intensity Radio Transmission Areas like Hythe, Dover, Swingate, and of course danger areas like Dungeness.

Kent Police believes its drone will help the constabulary fulfil its duty.

Chief superintendent Nicola Faulconbridge is head of Kent's crime and incident response command.

She said: "There has been an increase in the availability of unmanned aircraft and in 2016 Kent Police received 153 calls which mentioned a drone. The majority of these related to flying over property.

"In many of these reports, the drone owner was not identified or no criminal offence was disclosed. When police do identify and locate an owner, advice is often given.

"People who use unmanned aircraft are responsible for flying them safely and legally, and I would urge owners to read the safety guide produced by the Civil Aviation Authority to assist them.

"If anyone suspects that a craft is being used illegally we would encourage them to report their concerns to the police so the matter can be reviewed."

The CAA will investigate misuse that does not amount to a crime but may impact on aviation safety.

Drones themselves can range from tiny toys costing a few pounds, to fully militarised UAVs that are said to have been behind the killing of 14 terrorist leaders.

Dutch police hate them so much, they are training eagles to take them out, something Scotland Yard is also interested in.

■ The full rules for flying drones are set out at www.dronesafe.uk and anyone wanting advice on operating a drone themselves can visit the site aerial-pro-media.co.uk/contact/



VIEWS: An image taken from a drone



Port warns stopping dredging of Goodwin Sands will cost £500m

Campaigners working to save the 10-mile sandbank have dismissed the claim as “completely unfounded”

DOVER could lose half a billion pounds in jobs, tourism and business if the port can't win permission to relocate a cargo area to a new terminal at the Western Docks, bosses claim.

To carry out the building works, which chiefs say will create some 600 local jobs, the port needs to dredge some of the world famous Goodwin Sands.

This 10-mile sandbank several miles off the Deal coast has claimed 2,000 vessels and is home to basking seals, and the occasional bizarre cricket match.

But the Save our Sands campaign is blocking this particular regeneration work and wants the area designated a Marine Conservation Zone.

In a new campaign called Deliver for Dover, the port says the works are vital, and without the new cargo terminal, business will be hit the tune of £500 million.

It needs to use a “tiny amount” of the Sands to complete the Western Docks revival, and calls the opposition a “misleading Deal-based protest”.

The campaigners warn that the Sands will be obliterated by dredgers - a claim the port has dismissed.

The docks need a marine licence to carry out the works on the Sands, but SoS has been efficient in disrupting that application.

Port spokesman Antony Greenwood told us: “We have run into trouble obtaining the marine licence and this has been going on for the past 18 months.

“We are coming to the third stage of consultation, and because so much opposition has built up with misleading information we are going out to the public saying we want your sup-

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

port because without the marine licence we won't be able to deliver all the good stuff we have promised you. That is it in a nutshell.”

Explaining the impact on the Sands, he added: “To put this in perspective, it is 0.22 per cent of the total sands. I don't know why the opponents are saying it is much more than this.

“We have always told them how much we are going to take since day one.

“It is 2.5 million cubic metres which will leave 99.78 per cent of the sands untouched.

“I can't give a reason why officially that they are saying it is more than that - I assume it is just to big-up their campaign. It is such a small amount.”

The sand and gravel will be used in both construction and reclamation works, including more space for ferry movements, plus shops, bars and a new marina.

Opponents say the material should come from somewhere else, but Dover said it has already examined 16 other possible sites and all had to be rejected on grounds of cost, emissions and pollution increases.

Joanna Thomson, of the SoS coordinators said: “The claim that Doverians are set to lose half a billion pounds if they can't dredge the Goodwins is completely unfounded and has no substance.

“The development is not reliant on specifically dredging the Goodwins for aggregate.

“There are plenty of alternative commercial dredging sites in the East English Channel and the Thames Estuary that are within the industry norm in terms of distance from



PLANS: Dover's new Marina Pier.

dredge site to wharf. Hastings to Dover is about 40 nautical miles, whilst Hastings to Tilbury for example is 70 nautical miles.

“Dover Harbour Board is scare-mongering and as David Brocklehurst from Kent Battle of Britain Museum also said they are blackmailing everyone with the threat of loss of jobs and regeneration.

“The reality is that they have not built a contingency plan into their development budget and their plans are now unravelling.”

Save Our Sands has recently received the backing of actors Mark Rylance, born in Ashford, and Miriam Margolyes, who has a home in St Margaret's, plus author Deborah Moggach.

Ms Thomson added: “The campaign is reacting to a democratic process. The dredging application involves public consultations; the public have been consulted and many have objected. Just because the harbour board doesn't like what they hear, it does not give them the right to make allegations that dredging elsewhere is going to cost

the local economy £500m.

“The board's Scoping Report of July 2016 stated that dredging elsewhere would add an extra £6 million to the bill. Having said that, a few pages further on this figure climbed to £20m. Either way, it's a far cry from £500m.

“The final decision rests with the Marine Management Organisation.

“There is no 'decision by' date but we are about to embark on an unprecedented third 42-day public consultation period so a decision is unlikely to be made before the autumn. What we don't know is when DHB need the aggregate by.

“Saying they want to take 0.22 per cent is like saying they want to take a pinch of salt from the whole world.

“The reality is they want to dredge 1.95m off the top surface of 3.9 sq km area of South Goodwins lying three miles off the shore from Deal and Kingsdown.”

The Harbour Board hit back at these claims, however, as a spokesman said: “1.95m is the maximum we can dredge.

“The small amount of aggregate in

question will be from a very carefully and expertly selected site, where there are no known anomalies.

“The dredging itself will be a carefully controlled and observed process.

“Goodwin Sands are a designated dredge site and have been dredged before.

“They are actually located 4.2 miles from the Deal and Kingsdown coast.”

The Marine Management Organisation handles all marine activities around the UK.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke told us: “The Marine Management Organisation has dithered and delayed for far too long.

“They need to now get on and make a decision either the Harbour Board can dredge the Sands or not.

“It is very important they check carefully that certain guarantees are made that no war graves are disturbed and the marine environment is not damaged.

“They have had a long time to make their investigations and now is the time to get on and make their final decision.”

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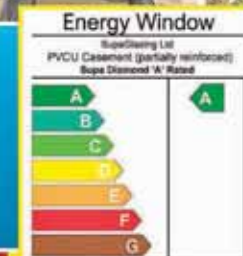
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Potential stars 'are being held back' by lack of 50-metre pool

The county's best swimming talent has to travel to London, Essex or Sussex to train in suitable facilities because there are none available here. Campaigners are calling on our universities to step up and help provide a "much-needed" pool

YOUNG swimmers with the ability to become future Olympians are being "held back"

from fulfilling their potential due to the lack of a 50-metre pool in Kent, according to campaigners.

Promising children and teenagers are having to travel into the capital, or as far as Essex, west Sussex and Surrey in order to train in an Olympic-sized pool because such facilities are not available anywhere in the county.

Furthermore, the distance some swimmers from the east of the county have to travel for a suitable British pool is so far, it's geographically closer to visit a pool in France.

Swimming has returned at the top of the sports agenda in recent weeks following the heroics of Adam Peaty, who broke his own world record twice at the World Aquatics Championships last month.

However, campaigners fear Kent may never produce an athlete capable of competing alongside the likes of Peaty at major events due to a lack of available facilities.

John King is the development coordinator of the Kent County Amateur Swimming Association.

He told KoS: "Our campaign has been going for 25 years and we have had no luck in that time.

"We have had a number of possibilities at various locations in Kent such as Canterbury and Sevenoaks but they have stumbled at the final hurdle.

"The stumbling block has always been money because few 50m pools can sustain themselves financially without some external help from sports bodies, universities or

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

top schools."

There are other ways of funding it of course, such as through wealthy sponsors like turkey tycoon Bernard Matthews, who put his hand in his pocket to help provide a 50m pool at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Mr King added: "Everyone is in favour because we are a very successful swimming county without access to an Olympic-size pool.

"It's like an 11-a-side football team always training on a five-a-side pitch, then being expected to perform on a full-sized pitch.

"They need to practice in a suitably-sized pool because it's about endurance.

"When a swimmer turns, their muscles get a rest, so they're used to training in a pool with twice as many turns.

"Most of our clubs have 50m pool training but only sporadically because they have to travel such a long distance – some have to leave at 3.40am just to get a couple of hours in.

"In east Kent, the nearest 50m pool is actually in France."

Emma Arnold's 16-year-old daughter, Rosie, is one of the county's most promising swimming prospects, but admits they have considered giving up her regular training because they find themselves so exhausted travelling long distances back and forth from their Maidstone home for suitable facilities.

Mrs Arnold works part-time for her car sales business and admits there are plenty of families who are unable to be as flexible with their time, and have to see

their sons and daughters throw in the towel.

"We have been bashing our head against the wall on this for years," she told us.

"Rosie has gone through the competitive swimming route since she was about nine, but it became clear she was at a disadvantage coming up against kids who regularly train in 50m pools.

"She has seven sessions in the water a week and we have to travel to the London Aquatics Centre so we do 3,000 miles a month.

"Her morning starts at 4am, we're out the door by 4.30am so she can have two hours to train, then she has a full school day and then another two hours in the evening.

"It's a crazy schedule for anyone who wants to compete at a high level and shameful that a county like Kent – which can't pretend to be poor – can't provide what is really a basic facility.

"No one seems to be able to get the capital together and no one wants to take responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

"We have got a host of really talented kids who can only progress so far.

"I'm lucky enough to be able to work part-time and take that time out to drive Rosie all over the place, but that's not the case for a lot of parents.

"If we could get a university involved to take ownership it would allow our county swimmers to progress right the way through."

Mr King added: "The Kent swimmers from big clubs like Thanet, Sevenoaks and Bromley do brilliantly in national championships, but their lack of access really is a problem in taking them to



DEMAND: The campaign has backing. Above right, Rosie Arnold and right, Helen Grant MP. Pictures: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO/CONTRIBUTED/ADY KERRY

the next stage - it's holding them back.

"They're missing out by a few milliseconds because they don't have suitable facilities.

"There are world championships at 25m pools but they don't have the same kudos and don't attract any government funding because they are only interested in Olympic med-

als, which are only available in 50m pools.

"It's ridiculous a county of our size and population doesn't have one - in Germany there's one in every little

town and Paris has more than the whole of the south east combined.

"The Kent swimmers have to move to take their career on - they can't stay here and become Olympic stand-

ard, which is a shame because the coaches here are fantastic and they have done a tremendous job given the lack of resources."

Maidstone and the Weald MP



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Helen Grant has the UK's oldest competitive swimming club based in her constituency but has also joined the chorus of calls for an Olympic-sized pool somewhere in the county.

She said: "If Kent is to produce national and world class swimmers the county must have an accessible 50 metre pool."

"It is an essential aspect of top level competition training for swimmers and triathletes, particularly in developing endurance and rhythm."

"Presently Kent swimmers have to travel to Crystal Palace in South London, Crawley in West Sussex or the Olympic aquatic centre in Stratford which are too far away for effective daily training programmes."

Steve Wolfe, CEO of Kent Sports Trust Foundation, a charity that works to increase sports participation across the county agreed with the Conservative MP.

"It's crazy in this day and age that Kent doesn't have a 50-metre pool for the community to use," he said.

"If we are going to inspire the next generation of Olympic swimmers, we need the appropriate facilities for them in which to train and compete."

"With our sports minister, Tracey Crouch [MP for Chatham and Aylesford] living in the county, I hope those that wish to see a 50m pool built in Kent get the support they deserve."

"The team at the Kent Sports Trust Foundation will be doing all we can to help make that happen."

A 50m pool was being considered for the new £26m leisure centre in Dover after more than 700 people signed a petition asking the district council to discuss the possibility.

However, bosses were recommend-

ed that an eight-lane, 25m pool would be more appropriate instead.

Council documents read: "The option of providing a 50m pool has been investigated in detail and is not recommended; the ISFS considered detailed evidence regarding this type of facility, including Sport England's Facility Planning Model, which showed that creation of a 50m pool would lead to over-provision of pool space in the district and therefore would probably be underused."

"This would create an affordability gap of over £7m."

"The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) has advised that for a 50-metre swimming pool to succeed in east Kent, at least two local authorities would need to combine and rationalise their swimming pool stock before providing a jointly funded 50-metre swimming pool."

"The ASA has examined the proposed plans for Dover and supports the approach taken."

Mr King said: "I can't really blame councils because these pools are expensive to build and they just don't have the money at the moment."

"They have a responsibility to taxpayers not to make a huge loss."

"What we really need is a university to put some money in because that will attract new students for them as well from across the country."

"A pool like that wouldn't just benefit swimmers but also divers and everyone also across the aquatic spectrum."

Denise Everitt, senior deputy vice-chancellor and chief operating officer at the University of Kent said: "Over the past few years we have built or developed a number of sports facilities that have helped make the university



PRESSURE: The University of Kent is being urged to help provide a pool

one of the most popular destinations for the region's sporting community, schools and clubs, as well as being of immense benefit to our own students, staff and conference visitors."

"Whilst we have no current plans to build a 50m pool ourselves, we will happily work with other local partners to obtain funding for what would make a wonderful facility."

A spokesperson for Canterbury Christ Church University said: "We don't have any plans at the moment to build the pool."

"We are currently in the process of an Estate Master Plan, having purchased the former HM Prison a few years ago."





"The plans for this - after a year-long review of our current estates

and future needs for students and staff - includes a new Arts building, a new Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise Hub for the STEM subjects and a university hub with community space in the old prison building."

The sports minister was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

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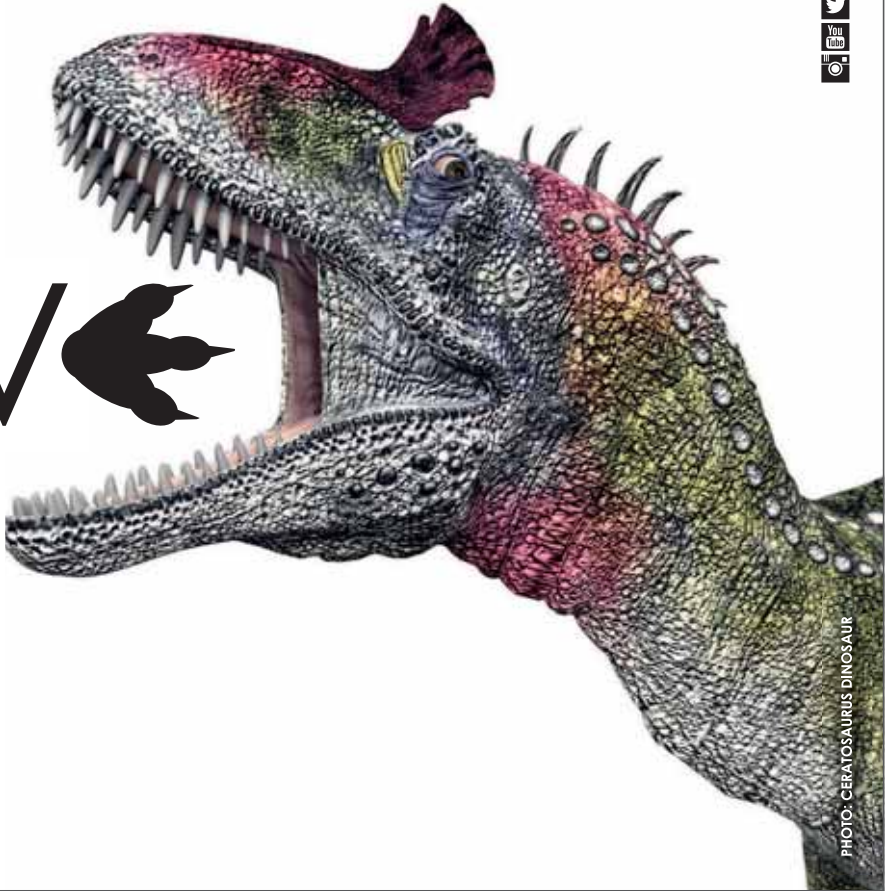


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Why these tiny pubs are the talk of the town

Britain's first ever micropub opened here in the county just over a decade ago and the concept has exploded in popularity ever since. The secret to its success, they say, is simply the people

FIRST launched in Kent just over 10 years ago, the phenomenon of the micropub is now seen as the saviour of many village and small town centres.

They are typically tiny, as the name suggests, do not sell lager, and have no music or fruit machines.

A fluke of a law change in 2005 meant off-licence boss Martyn Hillier could go on-licence without the legal battle with major brewers who were not particularly keen on some extra opposition opening.

In 2005, he opened Britain's first micropub in Herne called The Butcher's Arms, and is still going strong - he had even banned smoking two years before the law changed in 2007.

But Mr Hillier said: "I am no threat to the big boys. A nice number of people in here is 18, and that means people actually talk to each other."

"You don't get that in a normal pub. You have groups of people going in there, having a meal and drink and never interact-



By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ing with anyone else.

"In my opinion that is not what a pub should be, but I would not want them closed down, they serve a purpose."

"But in a micropub, the regulars still look out for one another and if a customer is not there when they are expected to be there, someone will look in on them just to make sure they are alright."

"That is what a pub is supposed to be, and that's why they are now growing at an amazing rate."

The concept, Mr Hillier says, is designed for a village that has lost its conventional watering hole because it became worth more as a house than a pub.

"The idea was when an empty shop became vacant, you convert it in to a very small pub where all the overheads and bills are so much lower making them easy to run," he said.

"If you keep it as a sort of retirement hobby, no one bothers you either. The police love them because there is never any trouble."

"There are now twice as many micropubs in east Kent as there are Wetherspoons in the whole of Kent."

"They are just licensed canteens, but they do a good job and every town needs one. But if you want to have a couple of beers and actually talk with someone, you need a micropub. I guarantee you will talk with a stranger in a micropub and you won't in a normal pub."

"In my pub, we put the world to rights three times a night. I don't even have a conventional bar because once again that will be a focal point and if you are sitting at the bar drinking, you automatically have your back to everyone else. I usually start off a conversation and then back out of it, letting everyone else take it forward."

Mr Hillier said the micropub became a workable concept when the law changed in 2005.



COMMUNITY: Micropubs like The Butcher's Arms have been praised for how they bring people together

"Before that, a would-be landlord would have to beg a magistrate to give him a license and have to show there was a need for another pub."

"And the big boys would always object and then appeal if they lost and if they kept the expensive legal fight going long enough, the single man would eventually give up because of the costs."

"The Licensing Act of 2005 unlocked the door and suddenly the man in the street could go and run his own pub because they can deal

with the council not the courts."

"My pub is only open between 12 and 1.30pm, and then again at 6pm to 9pm."

"I don't want to be doing this all day and night and it means you get interesting people running micropubs rather than someone who merely sees them as a business and not a community hub."

"Even the Archbishop of Canterbury went to one in Sittingbourne last year because he had heard what they do for communities. Everyone

is more than welcome in a micropub."

"I don't say come to mine because it is the best. I say come to mine to see how it is done, and then go and do it yourself."

"There are now over 300 of them in Britain, and there is now the first micropub guide has just come out."

"Drinking a real beer is only half of it and doing it at home is boring. Go to a micropub and your world will change. The concept is all about people."

DO THE KENT MICROPUB TOUR

ONE of Kent's top suppliers have launched a rail tour.

Kent Brewery noticed Southeastern lines that circle the county also has stations that are all within 10 minutes walk of a micropub.

It is now sponsoring a new brochure to help fans of the micropub visit even more of them.

It said: "You can use the guide to explore Kent's micropub revolution."

"They started with the Butchers Arms in Herne and now Kent boasts far more than anywhere else and many are easily accessible by a single train line out of London."

"The high speed service from St Pancras International follows a circular route along the Thames and around the coast where most of these micropubs are based, so it is easy to visit them without needing to use your own transport."

They said a remarkable

37 micropubs can be visited between Gravesend and Folkestone, by simply following the single train line.

Then there are eight more that are accessible from train stations further in land.

All of these are listed in the guide with addresses, opening times and other details such as outside seating and food availability.

Anyone who wants a copy of the novel guide should just call into any of the micropubs along the route or send a stamped and addressed envelope to Kent Brewery, Birling Place Farm, Stangate Road, Birling ME19 5JN.

Paul Herbert, a director of Kent Brewery, said: "Never has it been easier to drink without driving and to explore a booming phenomenon of Kent along the way."

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Centuries of double-crossing in the shadow of our castle

We take a stroll back through time to discover some of the fascinating history of Tonbridge Castle, which is now home to a number of local authority services

KENT'S historic forts are renowned across the world, with crowds flocking to Dover, Rochester and Leeds in Maidstone for a taste of medieval culture.

Yet the history of Tonbridge Castle is among the most fascinating and dates back to the start of England's 'modern' history itself.

It begins when William the Conqueror landed near Hastings. With the Duke of Normandy defeating Harold II, defence was the next item on the agenda, and forts around key points of the south east were built.

One of those was at Tonbridge and after an extensive and somewhat chequered past, is now in the hands of the local council.

In the past decade, it has undergone a major restoration project at a cost of £800,000, and visitors have been pouring in ever since to discover its rich heritage.

Back in the eleventh century, William may have had 12,000 men, but a million and a half Brits were still not happy with their new ruler, so a military strength was built up, the likes of which had

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

never been seen here before.

Fortresses were key and its tall walls were a formidable sight.

It was handed to Richard de Clare, who held many estates in the south of England, according to the Doomsday Book.

Peace was never something anyone took for granted, and in 1087, the fortress was mostly destroyed.

The de Clares rebelled against King William Rufus whose forces besiege the castle and finally have to surrender before the castle and town are burned down.

The fight was started when William the Conqueror died and controversially left England to his second son, also called William.

Unhappy with the Tonbridge defeat, two years later Rufus was killed with an arrow in the New Forest by Walter Tyrell, the son-in-law of Gilbert de Clare.

That signalled the moment in time that allowed the de Clares to begin

their ascent and become the richest and most powerful family in the Kingdom - but there was more deceit and double-crossing to come.

In 1215, after King John signed the Magna Carta in the presence of Gilbert de Clare and his son Richard, the monarch attacks both Rochester and Tonbridge castles, taking Tonbridge before Christmas.

The castle we see today then began to take shape and by 1253 it became one of the nation's finest examples of a Motte and Bailey gatehouse.

More political shenanigans erupted in 1262 when King Henry III was challenged.

In 1264, he took Tonbridge but the status quo was soon in place one more when he was defeated at Lewes.

A year later, the de Clare family switched alliances once again and backed Henry to take on and defeat the de Montfort family which had become stronger thanks to an alliance with Wales.

It also got him Tonbridge back once more, and he decided never to

be beaten in a fight again and the gatehouse went up.

The walls reach deep underground to prevent sapping, where opposing forces undermine the foundations, and murder holes are liberally placed.

Tonbridge was so spectacular, it was decided one was not enough.

In 1268, Gilbert de Clare started building Caerphilly Castle on the same plan as Tonbridge.

Still seeking high position, in 1272, Gilbert personally welcomed King Edward I and Queen Eleanor when they arrived at Dover to take the throne following the death of Henry.

Before their coronation they were entertained at Tonbridge Castle, where their portraits in stone had places of honour.

Ever ruthless, Gilbert agreed to marry the King's daughter Princess Joan, and boot out his existing wife Countess Alice. Their children were also removed from scission.

It's true to say the King made the offer in order to preserve his friendship with a dangerous ally. Gilbert

even played host to the King's son.

Gilbert, known as the Red Earl because of his shock of hair, died in 1295 and his son, also called Gilbert, became Earl when he



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HISTORIC:
Tonbridge
Castle

was just 16.

King Edward II was on the throne, and Gilbert junior was soon embroiled in a series of chaotic events which saw rivals handed and be-

headed, and some questionable decisions on marriages.

Gilbert was killed by Robert the Bruce and the male line of de Clares was ended.

After 250 years, it was time for a new phase in Tonbridge Castle's incredible history, making way for the Safford family who were the Dukes of Buckingham.

However, Henry VIII had Edward, Duke of Buckingham executed in 1520 for treason, and Tonbridge Castle ownership passed to the Crown.

In the 15th century, lawyer Thomas Weller leased it but didn't live there, leaving it to breed rabbits and grow apples.

In 1643, it was the time of the civil war and three years later the might that was Tonbridge Castle was ordered to be dismantled.

Falling into ruin, the last person to live there was William Bailey in the early 19th century.

Roles as a prep school, military academy and private home followed.

It was in 1897 that the local Tonbridge Urban District Council bought it for the grand sum of £10,000.

Earl Stanhope opened it to the public in 1900, but it took up a defensive role once more in the Second World War when, should the Nazi army arrive, the Brits would use the castle to fend them off.

Fast forward to the modern day and the castle offers public tours where the tangled stories of kings and archbishops, tyrants and heroes, murderers and mercenaries are all interwoven.

The patchwork quilt history of Tonbridge is seldom beaten.

Being at an age when things will start falling off, it was decided to close down the gatehouse just before the new millennium to allow a £375,000 renovation project to begin.

Missing floors on the ground and first level were replaced, and a spiral staircase in the East Tower repaired. This opened the gatehouse to en-

able circular tours, and create two new rooms, further enhancing the castle's reputation, proving a firm favourite as a wedding venue.

In 2003, the re-roofing of the gatehouse was completed at a cost of £450,000, partly paid for by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The council said the latest restoration work will help preserve the structure of the gatehouse, improve the interior of the building and provide shelter all year round.

And more recently, the work has continued as the 2.6 metre thick curtain walls were restored as parts had started crumbling.

Anthony Garnett, spokesman for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, said: "The council is committed to the castle's preservation and enhancement to provide the best possible attraction and local place of interest for visitors to enjoy."

"At the heart of the Tonbridge community, the castle is valued on many levels.

"As a community venue, the castle and grounds host a number of events, as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the castle supports the local tourism industry and provides an educational asset for schools and colleges, and as a public authority property the castle is home to a range of council services through the gateway where both county and borough council services are available seven days a week.

"Tonbridge Castle is well visited by the public and for anyone who hasn't yet been I would urge them to take this opportunity to discover some of Tonbridge's medieval history and all that the castle has to offer."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MEDICAL SCIENCE NEWS

Bloating? Constipation? Diarrhoea? Abdominal Pain? Up to 13 Million Brits affected!

You repeatedly suffer from constipation or diarrhoea, bloating or abdominal pain? You are not alone by far! In many cases the cause is Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). The fantastic news is: A promising relief for IBS is finally available in the UK - Kijimea IBS!

The mystery of IBS finally solved

Recurring intestinal problems have been a mystery for a long time. The search for a possible cause took scientists years and years - until they discovered what may be to blame: a chronic bowel disease called IBS. But that is not all: Today, experts are increasingly convinced that IBS may be caused by small damages in the intestinal barrier. These allow pollutants and pathogens to enter the intestinal wall and to trigger the typical IBS symptoms.

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The benefits of Kijimea IBS have actually been put to the test in a clinical study - with



amazing results! IBS symptoms did not only significantly improve due to Kijimea IBS but also disappeared completely in some cases. On top of that, the bifidobacterium contained in Kijimea IBS is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of IBS patients!

Finally available in the UK!

In many other countries Kijimea IBS has already proven to be extremely successful. Now, this promising product is finally available for millions of IBS sufferers in the UK, too! Kijimea IBS is prescription-free and has no known side effects.

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If symptoms worsen and/or persist, consult a doctor. For more information visit www.kijimea.co.uk.

Is Nolan's take on Dunkirk a true reflection of the events?

IF a film director takes on the onerous task of portraying one of this country's most famous defeats, he should not be surprised to find that cinema-goers expect him to keep poetic licence in check.

However, when six British soldiers walk down the deserted but pristine Dunkirk street in the very first scene of Dunkirk, Christopher Nolan's latest blockbuster film, it is immediately clear that melodrama is to hold sway over inconvenient facts.

Anyone who knows anything about Operation Dynamo could have told Dunkirk's director that just

Historian **Hugh Sebag-Montefiore** continues his appraisal of Dunkirk, Christopher Nolan's latest blockbuster film, in his second article for Kent on Sunday, where he asks if the action is authentic, and highlights events from the movie which echo true accounts unearthed while researching his best-selling book about Britain's most famous evacuation

about every window pane in every street had been smashed by the time the evacuation was under way at the

end of May 1940, and the streets were full of bombed and burned out houses.

The historical scene setting is no more accurate. Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay is not permitted to stay in Dover from where he directed Operation Dynamo.

Nolan has his vice admiral speed over from England to the Dunkirk mole, the main jetty, to deliver his message in person to Kenneth Branagh's piermaster.

The dialogue between the two men is equally unauthentic.

Ramsay's pessimistic forecast about the number of troops he could rescue was made at the beginning of the evacuation.

Churchill's decision to let one Frenchman be evacuated for every

British soldier rescued was taken towards the end.

Yet in the film these topics are rolled into one conversation.

There are many other anomalies. In the film, as well as taking centre stage on hospital ships, women appear at Dunkirk on some of the little ships, although I never encountered any in the course of my research.

The RAF patrol in a group of three planes, notwithstanding the real life decision to deploy in much larger, multi squadron, formations.

And the hero of the film appears to be reading out Churchill's 'We will fight them on the beaches' speech the day before it was delivered.

And yet this wonderful film, which is a cross between the best of the silent movies and a melodramatic



Wagnerian opera, complete with expressive thematic music so that a picture of every action is painted aurally before it is seen on screen, is full of touches which echo the true dramas I unearthed when writing my Dunkirk book.

I almost wept when George, the teenager in the film, who has been mortally wounded on the little ship that is heading for Dunkirk, spits out his last words, because they echo a poignant true life scene.

HISTORIAN: Hugh Sebag-Montefiore



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DRAMA: Film still from Dunkirk. Pictured: James D'Arcy as Colonel Winnant and Kenneth Branagh as Commander Bolton. Pictures: PA PHOTO/WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC./MELINDA SUE GORDON.

After Harold Potter, an 18-year-old sailor in the merchant navy, was blown to kingdom come with all the other men serving on the cockle boat Renown by an exploding mine, his father revealed how much being part of the rescue meant to him.

Harold believed he was a failure when he was at school, although this was partly because of recurrent illnesses.

But shortly before he left, he told his father that one day he would do some-

thing to make the school proud of him.

When his parents received the letter telling him that Harold had 'done well', and had 'died doing his duty helping to evacuate troops from the coast of Belgium', they were comforted that he had done something which had he lived would have made him proud of himself.

I was equally mesmerised by the way Mark Rylance's Mr Dawson, the civilian in charge of the motor launch

heading for Dunkirk, dealt with the German plane that swooped down towards his defenceless little ship.

In the best traditions of British servicemen with their backs to the wall who hold their fire until it can deliver the biggest dividend, he told his son to keep on steering the boat along its current course until the screaming German plane was almost upon them, only at the very last minute ordering the boy to wrench round the tiller, taking the boat out of harm's way.

It mirrored the action taken on Sundowner, one of the little ships whose exploits are recounted in the little ships file in London's National Archives.

Likewise, there was a ring of truth

about the scuffle between the British and the French as British officials sought to exclude French soldiers from the mole, and the threat by the character played by Harry Styles to shoot a Frenchman who had been sheltering with the Brits on a stranded ship.

Documents I found in the French archives describe how there really were scuffles between allies on the beaches, and how one group of French soldiers were put up against a wall and shot because they were believed to be spies.

But perhaps the most telling scene in the film was when the rescued British soldiers looked out of their train window to find a group of schoolboys carrying on with their lives beside the

railway track as if the war had never been started.

This could not have been more realistic. I remember reading an account by a young British lieutenant who having overcome almost insuperable odds to get back to Dunkirk and then Britain, was overwhelmed by the feeling of joy as he watched cricketers dressed in white on their village greens and girls in summer blouses playing tennis 'as if there was no war.'

The updated paperback and a new audiobook of Hugh Sebag-Montefiore's Dunkirk: Fight To The Last Man is published by Penguin. The paperback of his book on the Battle of the Somme will be published in November.



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Nicknamed the Garden of England, of course, we actually have some of the very finest wine producers that rival our friends across the Channel right on our doorstep.

And what better way to enjoy the twilight days of the summer season by tasting some wine or taking a tour of some of the county's most picturesque vineyards?

Sparkling wines have become a great success story of the last few years, with excellent growing conditions and similar soils to the Champagne region of France helping vineyards to consistently produce award winning products.

Indeed, French champagne house Taittinger planted its first vines in English soil earlier this year near the village of Chilham.

What's more, back in January, it was revealed more than 80 per cent of those presented with a picture of an idyllic Kent countryside scene misidentified it as an exotic overseas location.

As part of research carried out by a hotel chain, of those taking part shown a picture of Biddenden Vineyards, some 35 per cent thought it was in France, 21 per cent California,

Sitting in the shadow of Dover Castle lies the Cask Marque accredited White Horse Inn. Dating back to 1365 it is Dover's oldest public house. Today you will find them serving up home cooked food using local suppliers and a ready supply of real ales lagers wines and spirits. The White Horse is not just a traditional pub with an open fire & roof beams though. The main bar decor has a pleasingly eccentric twist whereby successful channel swimmers have come in to sign the walls as a record of their success.



Photo credit for www.jpetersphotography.co.uk



Hours can be spent reading over the names & times. A hidden terrace garden sits to the rear with the spectacular backdrop to the ruins of St James Church which overlooks this sun trap garden. The perfect place to sip one of their extensive range of extravagant gins. Trip Advisor recommendations ensure a continued stream of hungry & thirsty visitors to enjoy this historic grade 2 listed public house.

The White Horse Inn, St James Street, Castle Hill Road, Dover CT16 1QD • 01304 213066



13 per cent Italy, five per cent Spain and five per cent Jersey.

Just 19 per cent identified it as being in the UK.

It is believed vineyards were found even back under Roman occupation some 2,000 years ago, but the meteoric rise of wine production in England is a fairly recent phenomenon.

The use of new grape varieties have helped boost the number of commercial vineyards across the country to over 400, but one of the key compo-

nents of the success story is the techniques growers use to combat various difficulties.

We discovered earlier this year that vineyards have started burning fires at night to protect their crop from the threat of frost during the recent cold snap, over fears that the chilly weather in the night threatened to harm the young vines.

Julian Barnes, managing director at Biddenden Vineyards explained that a key weapon against the damage is to burn small fires in buckets to

keep the temperatures above zero.

There are triumphant tales across the county, with Chapel Down in Tenterden boasting some particularly high profile clients.

The winery supplied bubbly for the winning Oxford men's crew in the famous Boat Race with Cambridge across the River Thames, and bottles are served at many iconic British institutions such as The Donmar Warehouse, The Royal Opera House, London Symphony Orchestra and is also an official wine partner to No. 10

Downing Street.

The industry is booming, and an MP even proposed a bill in parliament earlier this year to serve English wine at UK diplomatic functions.

Nusrat Ghani said: "Article 50 is on its way and this could be seen as the first post-Brexit bill.

"As we leave the EU we must grasp every opportunity to find new markets for our products around the world and be imaginative in supporting them.

"I look forward to the very best of

our wines creating a splash in Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Rome for that matter and perhaps helping to oil the wheels of the Brexit negotiations to come."

With more than 50 vineyards in total across the county, including Barnsole Vineyard between Canterbury and Sandwich, Gusbourne Estate in Appledore, Ashford and The Mount Vineyard near Sevenoaks to name but a few, Kent is the place to be to sample some fine wine while the weather is still warm.



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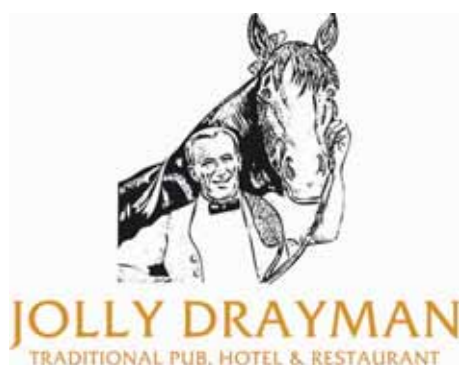
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15 AUGUST WIND IN THE WILLOWS AT UPNOR CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.boxtreeproductions.co.uk/>

Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm

Join Mole as he says 'dang' and 'blast it!', throws down his broom and sets off on an adventure out of his hole. On his journey he meets the effervescent Ratty who shows him the wonders of picnics and messing about on the river, Badger, the wise old sage of the woods and Toad of toad hall, whose exploits cause all manner of mischief and upheaval. When the Otters and Stoats take over Toad Hall it's up to Mole and Ratty, Badger and Toad to retake control. With inventive staging, original songs and magical storytelling we invite audiences to enjoy this classic tale of adventure, friendship and picnics in Boxtree Production's unique and energetic way!

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

15 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN WIND IN THE WILLOWS CHARACTER CRAFTS, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Boxtree Production's performance of Wind in the Willows, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from the classic story - who will you choose: Ratty, Mole, Badger or the infamous Toad? Children must be accompanied by an adult. 80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle

30 AUGUST PRIDE & PREJUDICE AT ROCHESTER CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 6.30pm; Performance starts: 7.30pm

Take a step back in time with Chapterhouse Theatre Company to meet Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Austen's most loveable heroine. When Elizabeth meets the rude and abrupt Mr Darcy, she loathes him at first sight. But is there more to him than meets the eye? Brought to life by award winning writer Laura Tuner, this brand-new adaptation celebrates the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's death and promises to be the most splendid evening of the summer. So, join friends and family as you picnic under a beautiful summer sky and lose yourself in this unforgettable love story. After all, it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

30 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN LIZZIE & DARCY CHARACTER CRAFTS IN TOWER TWO 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Pride & Prejudice, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Lizzie or Darcy?

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

31 AUGUST PETER PAN AT UPNOR CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm

Chapterhouse Theatre Company are delighted to present an all new production of Peter Pan. Join Wendy, Michael and John Darling on their adventures with Peter, far away on the magical island of Neverland. There they encounter the enchanting mermaids, magical fairies and the cruellest pirate of them all, Captain Hook. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French and in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, J.M.Barrie's timeless classic is brought to life in a brand new adaptation by award winning writer Laura Turner, with beautifully designed costumes, music and songs. Join Peter and his friends for what promises to be the most magical evening of the summer.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

31 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN PETER PAN CHARACTER CRAFTS IN THE BARRACK BLOCK,

10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Peter Pan, written by JM Barrie, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Peter, Wendy, Tinkerbell or Hook?

80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle



ROCHESTER CASTLE

ROCHESTER CASTLE CELEBRATION TRAIL

Take part in our heritage trail around the keep looking for clues to find out why Rochester Castle is celebrating this year for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own medieval masterpieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two.

MAKE YOUR OWN JESTER'S HAT 22 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN KING OF THE CASTLE CROWN 31 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN MINI SIEGE ENGINE 24 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN SWORD & SHIELD 15 Aug & 29 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN MEDIEVAL BRACELET 17 Aug

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 August, 10am to 5pm

MEDIEVAL MERRIMENT

Come down to the castle to experience life in medieval times. Walk around the Medieval Siege Society living history camp, and watch in awe as the Trebuchet Siege engine is fired! There will also be men-at-arms, archery & falconry displays, a courtly jester, have-a-go archery, trader's stalls, refreshments and children's crafts. Free, normal admission applies to the Keep.

UPNOR CASTLE

BATTLE OF MEDWAY TRAIL

Sun 30 July - Sun 3 Sept, 10am-6pm

(last admission 5.15pm)

Take part in our trail around the castle looking for clues to find out what happened at Upnor Castle during the Battle of Medway for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

MAKE YOUR OWN COLOURFUL CRITTER

Mon 14 Aug, Wed 16 Aug, Wed 23 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own Colourful Critter. There are four to collect or you can design your own. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

PAINTING THE BATTLE OF MEDWAY

with artist Kevin Clarkson Mon 21 Aug & Wed 30 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Local artist Kevin Clarkson meticulously researched the Battle of Medway to create several new paintings of the events at Upnor in 1667 for our anniversary commemorations this year. Join Kevin on site to draw your own Battle of Medway masterpiece.

BATTLE OF MEDWAY MINI DRAMA SCHOOL

Wed 23 Aug - Thur 24 Aug, 10am -3.30pm

Play on Words presents an amazing opportunity for budding stars of the stage to work with professional actors in a unique venue this Summer Holiday. Over two days you will learn all about creating and acting in a play, and the Mini Drama School will end with a performance for family and friends.

The two-day school costs £40. To book your place, contact info@playonwordstheatre.com or 07971512209

DRAW A MINI MASTERPIECE

Fri 1 Sept, 10.30am -3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to draw your own mini masterpiece inspired by the Battle of Medway.

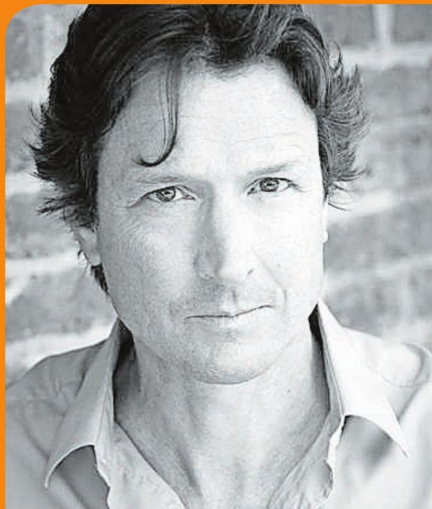


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SUSPICIOUS: The TV actors take the role of villagers who hear about a pre-planned murder via a newspaper article

Star cast announced for Agatha Christie's A Murder

TV actors from EastEnders, Doctor Who, and The Bill will perform on stage...

A STAGE adaptation of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple - A Murder, is making its way to Dartford's Orchard Theatre next week, and Bromley's Churchill Theatre in November.

The residents of Chipping Cleg-horn are astonished to read an advert in the local newspaper that a murder will take place this coming Friday at Little Paddocks, the home of Letitia Blacklock.

Unable to resist, the group gather at the house at the appointed time, when the lights go out and a gun is fired.

Enter Miss Marple, who must unravel a complex series of relationships and events to solve the mystery of the killer.

It was recently announced that a star-studded cast will be taking the role of villagers, including Lou-

ise Jameson (Eastenders/Bergerac/Doc Martin/Doctor Who/Tenko) as Miss Marple and Janet Dibley (The Two Of Us/Doctors/Eastenders) as Letitia Blacklock, with Tom Butcher (Doctors/The Bill), Sarah Thomas (Last Of The Summer Wine), Dean Smith (Waterloo Road/Last Tango In Halifax) and Lucy Evans (Coronation Street) in a full cast of twelve.

The Kent on Sunday spoke with Tom and Sarah about their roles, and pre-show and post-show rituals.

Tom said: "This is definitely a good production, but I can't really tell you much without giving it away."

"I play the part of inspector Craddock who is a highly intelligent and very handsome, middle aged policeman. I think the rest of the cast would agree too."

"I'm really excited to come back to Dartford, mainly because I saw a production of Classic Ghosts here, and I remember it as an impressive space. Also, living in London, I'll easily be able to commute and sleep at home."

"I hope that our audience leave the theatre with a sense of having been well entertained."

"My pre-show rituals are usually just extensive stretching of my vocal apparatus. Post-show I have a small drink and maybe a light snack, followed by an early night."

Sarah added: "This is my first Agatha Christie play and I think, one of her best."

"I play Dora Bunner, an old school friend of Letitia Blacklock of Little Paddocks. Bunny, as she is known has been on hard times and has been taken in by her friend. She gets a little muddled, can be irritat-

ing but is endearing, I hope."

"This really is a gripping thriller which makes a great night out."

"I've never been to Dartford before, but taking this play to somewhere new will make for a fun and enjoyable evening. There's nothing like live theatre."

"It will be a pleasure to visit Dartford."

"Beforehand, I'll probably walk around the stage, and then after the show I'll probably have a drink and relax."

The show will be in Dartford from August 15-19, and Bromley from November 7-11.

To book tickets in Dartford or for more information visit the website at orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

And for Bromley tickets visit churchilltheatre.co.uk or call 020 3285 6000.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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Women Seeking

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ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428157

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428155

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

CAROL, attractive lady 55yrs young, slim, tanned, brunette. If you are genuine and looking to date then call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428153

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

GENUINE caring lady 65yrs, varied interests, solvent, loves life, feminine, WLTm gent of any age for life's pleasures. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428151

RACHAEL, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427871

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

RACHAEL, 50yrs, blue-eyed attractive lady, loves films, music and home life. WLTm gent 50-70yrs. ACA or text. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428149

TAMIKKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3004 Box 422365

TAMIKKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365

If you are interested in meeting an attractive black lady then please call me. I'm Nikki, 57yrs, attractive, interested and kind. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428145

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979

SLIM attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428143

CAROL, 60 something lady with a wicked sense of humour, please call or text for more info. I promise to reply to all callers. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428141

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533

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ATTRACTIVE widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428139

CHLOE, very attractive girl, 32yrs, long hair and lovely teeth, I like to take care of myself. I want a man who will pamper me. In return you won't be disappointed as I am super sexy. Text Only. Box: 4070336

CATHY, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427853

PIPPA, recently divorced lady, 46yrs, hoping to get back into dating and have some fun with a guy any age. Must be a laugh and willing to have a go at most things. Text Only. Box: 4101590

ATTRACTIVE lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427883

JULIE, 68yrs but very fit and young looking. Married to an older gent so hoping to meet someone much much younger. Text Me. Text Only: 4193435

GEMMA, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427881

KAREN, late 50's seeking discreet gent any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only. Box: 4194757

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427879

FELICITY, "my friends call me posh" I'm not really. Call me to see. I'm 58yrs, curvy, blonde extensions and very good for my age. ACA. Text Only. Box: 4043583

STUNNINGLY attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427877

JANET, late 40's divorcee, own home and car looking to spice up my life with some fun. Discreet men only please, I'm not ready for a full on relationship, casual chats. Text Only. Box: 4189331

MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427493

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427649

MALE, 55, WLTm a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039

JERRY, 66, brown hair, brown eyes, recently widowed, love to walk my dog, WLTm compatible lady for companionship and to see where things go. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426387

THANET male, retired, 51.5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021

MALE, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no strings attached fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173

Hi ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. Text only. Mailbox: 4509325

LOCAL 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897

LIVELY mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

CARING, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865

KENT man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTm a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887

RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTm a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853

MALE divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369

MALE, 55, WLTm a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057

EASYGOING male, 49, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likeminded lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 5082918

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335

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Gay Seeking

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MALE, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. Text only. Replies. Mailbox: 4623598

JOHN, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. Text only. replies. Mailbox: 5657306

GAY guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

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Production of Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men's 10-week tour

SELLADOOR productions in association with Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre have announced a 10-week UK tour of the Steinbeck classic *Of Mice and Men* opening at Marlowe Canterbury on January 29.

Written by Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck and based on his own experiences in the twenties, *Of Mice and Men* tells the story of George and Lennie, two migrant ranch workers who dream of owning their own ranch.

With nothing but the clothes on their back and a dream, the wily and bright George aspires to independence, to be his own boss and most importantly to be 'somebody'. Gentle Giant Lennie aspires to be with George and join him in his Eden, but as the saying goes - the best laid schemes of mice and men, often go awry.

The show will be performed again in Kent on another set of dates at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall from March 26-31.

Guy Unsworth, director said: "Of Mice and Men is one of the great American stories that has stood the test of time. It's not only about the Great Depression in 1930s rural America but a timeless tale of loyalty and the struggles for survival in a cruel and competitive world."

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

alty and the struggles for survival in a cruel and competitive world.

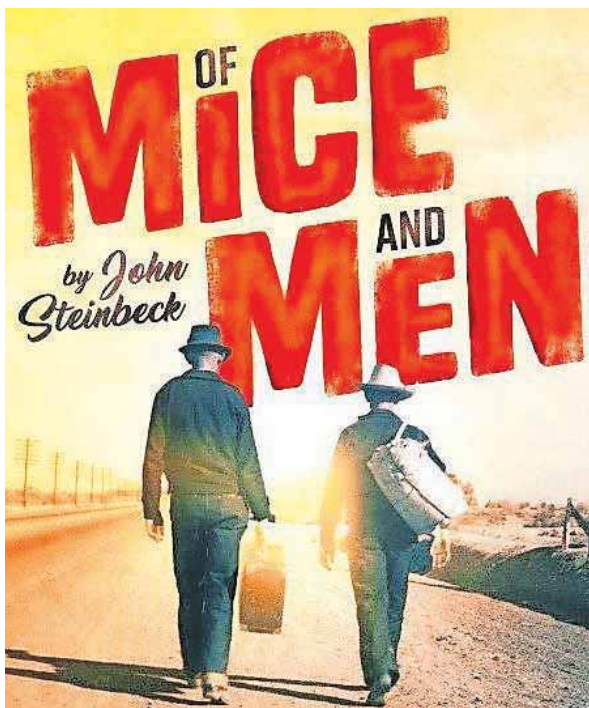
"For me it is also one of the most beautiful stories ever told - both heart-warming and breaking at the same time."

"I fell in love with it when I studied it as a teenager, so it's always been on my bucket list to direct, and when I mention the title, so many people have a great fondness for it too. I can't wait to bring it back to the stage".

David Hutchinson, executive creative producer of Selladoor Productions, added: "We are delighted to be bringing this timeless classic on a brand-new tour across the UK alongside such an exciting creative team. Giving people the chance to revisit this unforgettable story whilst also bringing it to the stage for a whole new generation of theatre goers".

For more information and tickets visit marlowetheatre.com or call the Canterbury box office on 01227 787787.

Or visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call its box office on 01892 530613.



CLASSIC: The production is based on Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's novel detailing experiences

Just a touch of Little Mix

JOIN The Little Mix Experience for a jam-packed concert of the band's hit songs at Margate's Winter Gardens on August 26.

For more information and tickets visit margatewintergardens.co.uk



Composers assemble fest

MUSIC @ Malling is back for the seventh time from September 21-30.

The festival will host 24 events featuring contemporary composers alongside, classical, jazz, and folk music.

For more information and tickets visit musicatmallong.com

You've Got A Musical

BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical will be visiting Dartford's Orchard Theatre from June 5-9 2018.

For more information and tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk



Charity afternoon tea

THE Ashford International Hotel are hosting a fundraising afternoon tea on behalf of the NSPCC on Monday, August 14.

There'll be cake, pastries, scones, clotted cream, sandwiches, and different flavours of tea priced at £15.50.

Visit qhotels.co.uk for more information.

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Bluewater's statue appeal

TWELVE giant, colourful Gromit sculptures have been unleashed around Bluewater this summer to raise money for the Wallace and Gromit Appeal. Visit bluewater.co.uk for more information.



Married couple's folk tour

FOUR times nominated for a BBC Radio Two Folk Award duo, Megson, are visiting Canterbury's Gulbenkian Theatre on October 5.

They'll be performing songs from their album *Good Times Will Come Again*.

Visit thegulbenkian.co.uk for more information and tickets.

Murder in 'cold blood'

RUTH Rendall's *A Judgement in Stone* will be at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from September 25-30.

For more information and tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.



1920s jazz celebration

LIVE music show, *Swinging at the Cotton Club*, will be at Hever Festival on August 26.

The production takes audiences back to the 1920s and 30s New York and to Harlem's Jazz club - The Cotton Club.

For more information and tickets visit heverfestival.co.uk

Adventurer Reeve to tour with story show

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

JOURNALIST Simon Reeve is bringing his first-ever theatre tour to Tunbridge Wells this November.

The show will feature tales from over 15 years of travelling to the most remote and extreme corners of the planet.

From being chased by pirates, hounded by the Mafia and bombed by Columbian barons, Simon has travelled through over 120 countries and his BBC documentaries have sold to over 60 countries around the world.

An Audience With Simon Reeve includes never-before-seen documentary footage and a question and answer session.

Simon's BBC documentary series include *Caribbean, Sacred Rivers*, *Indian Ocean*, *Tropic of Cancer*, *Equator*, *Tropic of Capricorn*, *Pilgrimage*, *Ireland*, *Australia*, *Greece*, *Big Life Fix*, and his two new series *Turkey* and *Russia*.

He has received a One World Broadcasting Trust Award for "an outstanding contribution to greater world understanding" the



prestigious Ness Award from the Royal Geographical Society, and the Special Contribution Award at the Travel Media Awards.

Most of Simon's documentaries combine travel and adventure with global environmental, wildlife, and conservation issues, and have taken him across jungles, deserts, mountains and oceans, and to some of the most beautiful, dangerous and remote regions of the world.

He has dodged bullets on frontlines, hunted with the

Bushmen of the Kalahari, dived with manta rays, seals and sharks, survived malaria, walked through minefields, tracked lions on foot, been taught to fish by the President of Moldova, adopted by former head-hunters, and detained for spying by the KGB.

An Audience with Simon Reeve will be coming to the Assembly Hall Theatre on November 27.

For more information and tickets, visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



VISITOR: Simon went to Ireland (Giant's Causeway)



HOSTS: He'll be in Tunbridge Wells as part of his tour

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Makan brings Indian food to life in cookbook

The Bake Off star tells all about tackling the colourful and tasty world of Indian food at home...

DON'T expect to find your standard chicken tikka masala and bhaji recipes in Chetna Makan's new cookbook, because Chetna doesn't do the expected.

In her first cookbook, The Cardamom Trail, the 2014 Great British Bake Off contestant explored how to use Indian spices in baking, and now her second recipe collection, Chai, Chaat & Chutney, takes an even more interesting tack.

It's crowded with dishes best eaten with your hands; dishes that Chetna couldn't get enough of while munching her way around India for research.

She, said: "People think Indian street food is limited to the three or

four dishes, like panipuri, and I wanted to show there's more."

But with a country the size of India, how do you go about distilling such an incredible cacophony of foodie goodness?

"I actually didn't know where to start because there's so much," admits Chetna, who lives in Broadstairs, with her husband and two children. "It's a massive country - different cuisine everywhere - so I thought, 'OK, I'm just going to pick the four big cities and focus on that'."

The big four - Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata - each have their own signature foods and flavours. Mumbai "is a very metropolitan city, so takes food from everywhere in the country, but it's got its own really dis-



EXPLORER: Makan visited India for inspiration and research

inctive dishes, like vada pav and dabeli". Chennai is "very big on South Indian food, there's lots of coconut, lentils, rice, and the typical dosas". In Delhi, people "eat very heavy, they really specialise in flatbreads", while in Kolkata you can expect "lots of fish".

Chetna studied fashion design in Mumbai before moving to the UK in 2003, so the food she encountered on her return wasn't "such a surprise".

"I was like, 'That tastes delicious, yeah, yeah, yeah, I've eaten that hundreds of times', but in Kolkata it was like, 'Oh my God, this is amazing'."

What all four cities do have in common though, is how kaleidoscopic their street food stalls and markets are compared to Britain's.

"They're very, very different," says

Chetna with a laugh. "There's more colour and life, it's all haphazard. Here, the street food stalls you go to are so organised! Everything is like clockwork".

Chetna started cooking as a child, following her mum around the kitchen, helping to chop and stir, before confecting birthday cakes for her own children got her addicted to baking. She's decided she'll give the new Bake Off on Channel 4 "a go" but admits, "If I don't like it, I won't continue".

Chetna's counsel for this year's baking hopefuls is: "You have to find your strengths and stick with it. That's what I did. I didn't think I had to do things a certain way, I knew my spices, and I just stuck with that."

Films in the open air

CINEMA Under The Stars will be at Hever Festival from August 22-25.

Singing in the Rain, La La Land, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and Bridget Jones' Baby will all be playing throughout the week.

Visitors can bring picnics, and blankets as they watch films in the open air. There'll also be a pizza van.

For more information and tickets visit heverfestival.co.uk or call 01732 866114.

Taylor's stand-up show

COMEDIAN Ellie Taylor is bringing her tour, This Guy, to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on October 27.

Following a sell-out Edinburgh Festival season and 2016 tour, the star of BBC's Live At The Apollo, Mock The Week and The John Bishop Show, and Channel 4's 8 Out Of 10 Cats.

May contain adult themes and language. Visit marlowetheatre.com for tickets.

Star's relighting fire

LULU is returning to Kent with her tour, and visiting Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on October 11.

The singer will deliver a show packed full of her hits, new songs, and songs that have influenced and guided her career.

She said: "I absolutely love playing live and can't wait to be out on the road again."

For more information and tickets visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Jones joins musical

LEGALLY Blonde the musical is coming to Bromley's Churchill Theatre from September 17-23.

The production stars Rita Simons as Paulette Bonafonte, Lucie Jones as Elle Woods, and Bill Ward as Professor Callahan.

The musical, based on the film follows Elle Woods and her dreams of becoming a lawyer to win back her ex.

Visit churchilltheatre.co.uk for tickets.

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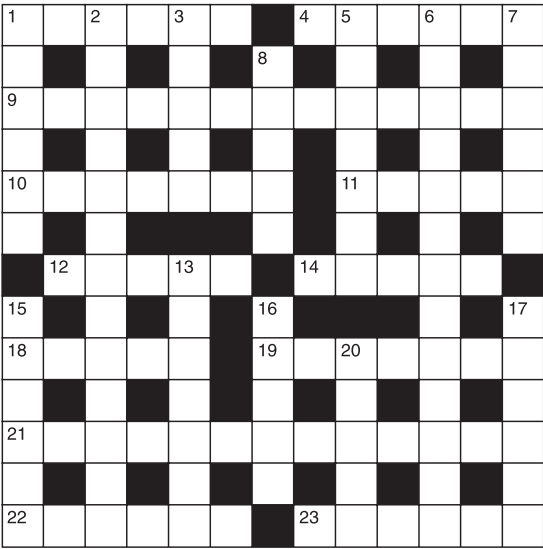
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PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

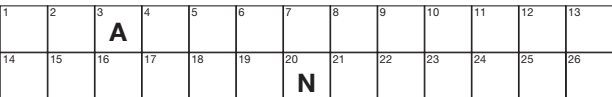
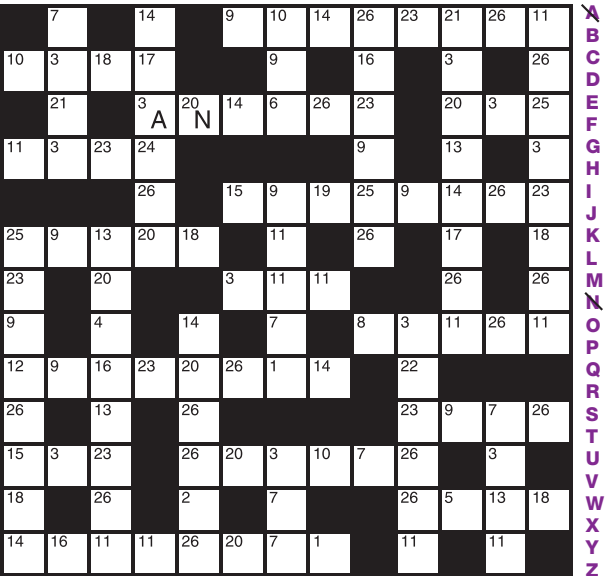
- Across**
- 1. Elf (6)
 - 4. Swordsman (6)
 - 9. Absolute (13)
 - 10. Most sacred (7)
 - 11. Happening (5)
 - 12. Nip (5)
 - 14. Condition (5)
 - 18. Big (5)
 - 19. Antiquated (7)
- Down**
- 21. Disobedience (13)
 - 22. Gives up (6)
 - 23. Risky (6)
 - 5. Obvious (7)
 - 6. Fixed attention (13)
 - 7. Tell (6)
 - 8. Unclean (5)
 - 13. Enheartened (7)
 - 15. Brave (6)
 - 16. Bisect (5)
 - 17. Sparse (6)
 - 20. Certainty (5)

Cryptic

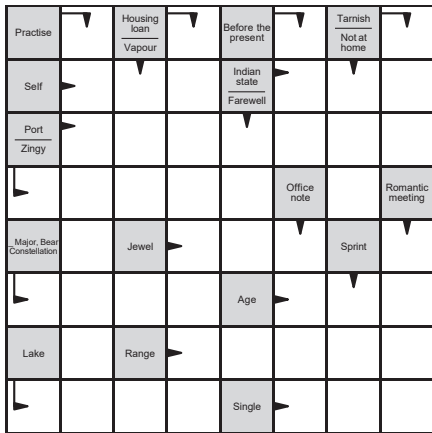
- Across**
- 1. Diana gets incorrect summarised version (6)
 - 4. Mother's holding the money for the service (6)
 - 9. Literally, a self-portrait (13)
 - 10. Grooms the first of the ladies in various stores (7)
 - 11. Romance three-quarters of an hour mother returns (5)
 - 12. Race broadcast (5)
 - 14. Alice changes her name (5)
 - 18. An extremely long time coming back for the ring (5)
 - 19. Anxiety about horse slaughter (7)
 - 21. Unfavourable effect created by faulty printing! (3,10)
 - 22. The odour of southern fish (6)
 - 23. Diminishes the growth of gimmicks (6)
- Down**
- 1. Churchman has company when the theologian comes round (6)
 - 2. Receives an injection and is annoyed (4,3,6)
 - 3. Paint brush used for black on the coat of arms (5)
 - 5. Headquarters of the flying squad? (3,4)
 - 6. Is this a matter of putting on airs extemporaneously? (13)
 - 7. They speak the name of a mystery writer (6)
 - 8. Provoke disagreements, we hear (5)
 - 13. A cinema could be in a sickly state (7)
 - 15. They have a deadly bite - Sam comes back to get a doctor in (6)
 - 16. Points total starting from scratch? (5)
 - 17. The lad did wrong on return (6)
 - 20. Transplanted trees will be! (5)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

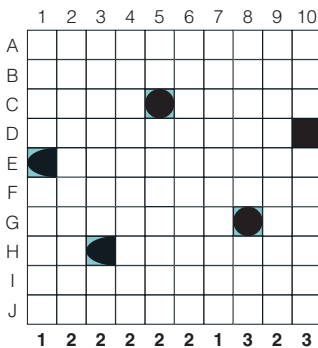


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

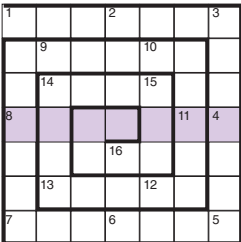
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



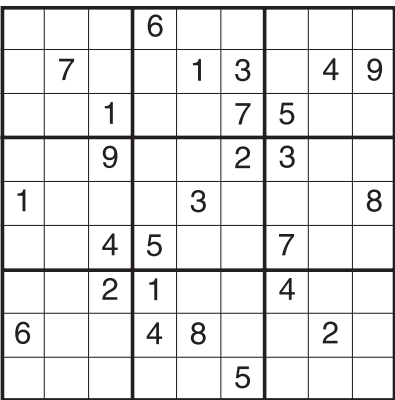
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Part of speech
- 2. Projecting edge
- 3. Communion
- 4. Precipitation
- 5. Direction
- 6. Streetcar
- 7. Mutilate
- 8. Post
- 9. Make secure
- 10. Bird
- 11. Notion
- 12. Female relative
- 13. English river
- 14. Hotpot
- 15. Lash
- 16. Ceremonial splendour

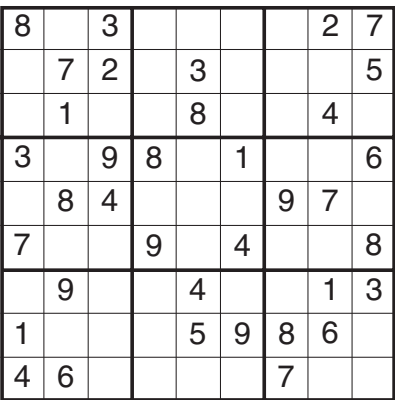
Keyword clue: An American city

SUDOKU

Hard

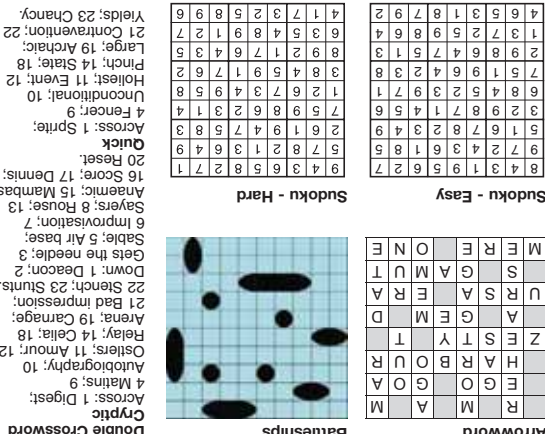


Easy



Solutions

Double Crossword
Across: 1. Digest; 2. Recalcitrance; 3. Tense; 5. Evident; 6. Concentration; 7. Relate; 8. Dirty; 13. Cheered; 15. Plucky; 16. Cinch.
Down: 1. Sought; 2. Halve; 17. Scanty; 20. Osters; 11. Amour; 12. Autobiography; 10. Relay; 14. Celia; 18. Arname; 19. Carriage; 21. Bad impression; 22. Stench; 23. Stunts.
Cryptic
1=Y, 2=Z, 3=A, 4=Q, 5=X, 6=W, 7=L, 8=F, 9=O, 10=B, 11=D, 12=C, 13=I, 14=S, 15=J, 16=U, 17=H, 18=T, 19=M, 20=N, 21=V, 22=G, 23=R, 24=K, 25=P, 26=E.
Word Spiral
1. Whip; 16. Pomp; 15. Aunt; 13. Teas; 14. Stew; 10. Kilm; 11. Idea; 12. 7 Maim; 8 Mail; 9 Lock; 4 Snow; 5 West; 6 Ram; 1 Verb; 2 Birm; 3 Mass; 20 Reset.
Arrowword
1. Whip; 16. Pomp; 15. Aunt; 13. Teas; 14. Stew; 10. Kilm; 11. Idea; 12. 7 Maim; 8 Mail; 9 Lock; 4 Snow; 5 West; 6 Ram; 1 Verb; 2 Birm; 3 Mass; 20 Reset.



Bella! Three of Italy's best 'secret garden' water features

For years, some of Italy's most beautiful gardens were locked away from public view. Thankfully, one British woman managed to convince owners to open their gates and share their gems with visitors. **HANNAH STEPHENSON** reports

Judith Wade is founder of Italy's largest garden network, Grandi Giardini Italiani (GGI), meaning *Great Italian Gardens*, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. She started the voluntary association in 1997 with just 12 gardens, but now 124 of Italy's finest gardens, complete with artistic and botanical heritage and stunning water features - both privately owned and state run - welcome millions of admirers each year.

Here, Judith shares three of her favourite gardens that all boast spectacular water features...

1 Villa Visconti Borromeo
On the outskirts of Milan, this 16th century house, in the style of a Tuscan villa, was enhanced when Count Pirro introduced leisure to his agricultural estate in Lainate, including the garden and

nymphaeum (monument), known as the Water Palace. The garden enjoys an 18th century fountain dedicated to Galatea and Neptune, and 820 trees of 56 different species. The nymphaeum is completely covered in black and white or tempera-painted pebbles. Watch out for a statue of Venus, mythological figures in mosaic and an unexpected water jet managed by clever "fountain attendants"!

2 Villa d'Este
Villa d'Este, an Italian masterpiece of garden art and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a much-copied example of European Mannerism and Baroque gardens, with its staggering concentration of fountains, nymphaea, grottos, water games and hydraulic music. After a long period of neglect, the villa became Italian state property

and a programme of restoration was drawn up, including the recent renovation of the Organ Fountain and "Bird Song".

3 Parco Idrotermale del Negombo

In 1946, humanist and traveller Duke Luigi Silvestro Camerini reached Ischia to create a park which would give reign to his passion for botany. The charm of the place and its surprising similarity to the Bay of Negombo, which he had seen and admired in Ceylon, persuaded him to choose San Montano Bay. Here you find thermal springs, while the garden landscape is integrated with magnificent plants brought from Australia, Japan, South Africa and Brazil, as well as a whole series of contemporary art sculptor installations.



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Indoor fun to be had during the wet and windy weather

Summer can still be enjoyed with a range of indoor activities across the county

TORRENTIAL rain has hit the county hard this week, leaving many families having to rearrange their plans for days out in the sun while school's out.

However, there are a host of fun, indoor activities for children to immerse themselves in across the coun-

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

ty, where the unpredictable British weather is of no concern.

Trampoline parks have exploded in popularity recently, and more and more of them are opening up across Kent.

Flip Out centres have opened in both Ashford and Chatham where kids can enjoy a world of wall-to-wall trampolines, foam pits and perhaps learn some new tricks in the process.

As well as jumping around freely, there are also opportunities for specific classes, suitable for the whole family, to put a smile on young faces during dreary weather.

Similarly, there's the Soar trampoline park in Gillingham and Gravity in Maidstone which will also have you somersaulting with joy.

More than half a dozen escape rooms have also opened up across the county - offering the families the chance to sharpen their minds and work together as they look to make their way out of a locked room, similar to those seen in the popular television programme, The Crystal Maze.

Canterbury, Tonbridge and Gravesend are just some of the locations that boast popular escape room challenges.

Alternatively, you might fancy some slightly less frantic action, so why not take the family to enjoy

Kent's finest heritage, as the county offers some of the richest history in the country.

Explore The Canterbury Tales at the museum in the heart of the city, or visit Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery which showcases a large toy collection dating back to the 1700s - ideal for showing the kids how their forefathers used to play well before the invention of smart phones and games consoles.

Kent, of course, also has some of the most stunning castles to offer visitors, and Leeds Castle near Maidstone, dubbed "the loveliest in the world", is regarded so highly that decorators at the White House even took inspiration from some of its interior designs.

Alternatively you could visit Dover Castle, which has protected Britain's shores for centuries, defending the realm from invaders, tyrants and rebels.

Rochester Castle in Medway is regarded as one of the best preserved in England, or in the west, you can relive the romance between King Henry VIII and one-time resident Anne



Boleyn at Hever Castle, near Edenbridge.

You might want to experience some more modern culture, and there



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CHOICE: Flip Out trampoline park in Chatham.Above, Escape room fun.
Pictures: CONTRIBUTED/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Whatever you decide to do, don't let a few dark clouds and some rain spoil the chance for some quality family time this summer.

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk East Week ending August 13, 2017 37

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OLD FATHER TIME

Summer fun for kids at Upnor Castle

Make a drama out of the Battle of Medway

Want to be a stars of the stage? Spend two days with professional actors at the Battle of Medway Mini Drama School. Learn all about creating and acting in a play. Perform it for family and friends. The two-day school costs £40. Ages 8-13 years. Wednesday, 23 August - Thursday, 24 August, 10am-3.30pm. To book your place, contact info@playonwordstheatre.com or phone 07971512209

Meet a 'real' Battle of Medway soldier

Learn how the castle's cannons tried to defend Chatham from Dutch raiders. **Play on Words Theatre Company** brings soldier William Webster to life. 11, 18, 25, 27 August; 9 and 10 September. Tours at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

Paint the Battle of Medway

Draw your own battle masterpiece under the expert eye of artist **Kevin Clarkson** who has created new paintings of the battle at Upnor.

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Chaos dates back years and years

THE chaos that has been Port
 Ramsgate goes back to the 70s.

There were issues with vehicles
 trying to access the port, and the
 road repairs and improvement to the
 port access meant they were then
 sent down Madeira Walk causing
 more mayhem.

For years there was a dire need for
 a real access road and what hap-
 pened? They built it when all the
 maritime traffic had ceased to call at
 the port. We now have a fully
 functional access road alas no port
 maritime traffic.

There can only be a complete lack
 of business understanding with the
 council and government offices
 when issues like the access road are
 concerned. In a backward country
 we would expect such chaos but
 Thanet? Well, who knows?!

More issues came to light when it
 was revealed that the port had not
 collected port dues for those vessels
 that had used the port facility.

The result was millions of pounds
 lost. Anyone with the minimum
 knowledge of maritime law knows
 that should a vessel owner or its
 agents fail to pay monies due to the
 port then a ticket can be placed on
 the hull of the vessel impounding it
 until payment is made.

The likes of past councillors had no
 such understanding and allowed
 vessels free mooring and offloading
 and loading facilities free simply
 because they failed to collect revenue
 from ship owners.

The cost was met by the Thanet
 residents for this error by past
 councillors.

I doubt there is any trust in Thanet
 Council and therefore any talk of
 re-using the port will only cost
 ratepayers more money.

Replace those councillors with
 businessmen with a good under-
 standing of port management and
 we might get somewhere.

In addition I would say that they
 would also make a better job of
 finances when it comes to Dream-
 land where we have a big hole and
 Manston.

Barry Belsey,
 via email

Time to reform councillor pay

EVERY four years we all dutifully
 elect our local and county council-
 lors - I have to ask the question: why?

Because all we, the rate payer, gets
 in return is an annual rate increase,
 the closing of essential services and
 facilities, adopting changes with
 refuge collection that very few
 residents want, but at the same time
 these same councillors award

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Ramsgate port talks are just a distraction

YOUR article on Ramsgate port
 [KoS last week] is fake news planted
 by Thanet Council and its Ukip
 leader Chris Wells, to distract
 attention from my revelation that
 the port has lost £17.7m over the
 past seven years.

If TDC and Cllr Wells were
 remotely confident about sealing a
 deal for a new ferry service
 operating out of Ramsgate then
 they would have published a
 triumphal, high profile,
 announcement on the council's
 website. But they didn't.

Instead a media statement was
 issued which refers only in the
 vaguest of terms to "discussions
 with interested parties".

The statement doesn't say how
 many interested parties the council
 has been in discussions with. The
 statement doesn't say what form
 these discussions took.

Were they just basic information
 gathering telephone calls and
 e-mail exchanges, or more serious
 discussions involving face-to-face

negotiations?

Nor does the statement indicate
 when these discussions took place,
 over how long a period, and
 whether they are ongoing.

My suspicion is that the
 discussions referred to in TDC's and
 Chris Wells' media statement were
 very basic, took place some time
 ago, and have not resulted in any
 on-going negotiations about the
 re-introduction of a ferry service
 from Ramsgate.

The statement was clearly
 intended to be a 'spoiler' which
 aimed to cynically manipulate the
 public. The unavoidable truth is
 that Ramsgate Port is in extremely
 serious financial trouble and it's
 highly unlikely to be rescued by a
 Polish Ferry company or an
 Arabian Sheik.

Its time for TDC to develop a new,
 leisure based, plan for the port
 instead of living in the past and
 continuing to waste public money.

Ian Driver
 Former Thanet councillor

with no more jollies of any kind at
 the rate payers' expense.

R Webb,
 Gravesend

Science proves pollution fears

AS a transport economist and
 member of the transport economist
 group committee I was surprised by
 Terry Hudson's letter stating that the
 anti-vehicle plan will hit the poor.

The current evidence based partly
 on the cross-party report headed by

the then Conservative MP Tim Yeo in
 2010 is that road vehicle pollution
 causes around 29,000 premature
 deaths a year.

Pollution disproportionately kills
 people in lower income households
 partly because they are usually
 nearer to traffic than other houses.

Many years ago, when I visited the
 then huge British Leyland plant in
 the West Midlands it was very notice-
 able that they used electric vehicles
 within the plant as they did not want
 pollution on their own premises.

I was a UK delegate on dangerous
 goods to what is now the interna-
 tional maritime organisation and at
 that stage in the Cold War Russian,
 American as well as British and Japa-
 nese scientists all agreed about the
 problems that diesel caused.

Perhaps Terry Hudson can reveal
 his own scientific background. Or is
 he trying to prove that there are
 people with even less scientific
 knowledge than Donald Trump?

Japan now has more recharging
 points than conventional petrol or
 diesel garages.

Younger people under 17 are not
 legally allowed to drive cars on
 public roads as far as I'm aware so
 cycle lanes help them to get to and
 from school et cetera.

A report from Dresden University
 shows that motorists do not pay their
 full social costs.

David Spurling,
 Sittingbourne

Europe needs to take stern action

YOUR report that two new migrant
 centres are to be set up in Calais,
 combined with the summer season
 of mass migration across the
 Mediterranean, makes it clear how
 important it is that Brexit is imple-
 mented as soon as possible, so that
 we can put an end to the free
 movement of people from the
 continent.

While one sympathizes with those
 seeking a better life it is impossible
 for Europe and the UK to absorb the
 sort of numbers involved.

There are possibly hundreds of
 millions of people in the Third World
 who would wish to come to Europe
 for economic reasons, and only a
 lunatic could believe that to accept
 so many would be practicable.

Certainly we must help those
 nations whose economies are unable
 to provide a decent life for their
 people, but this must be done within
 such countries, not by exporting the
 problems.

It is time that European nations
 take stern action, both to stop the
 boats coming to southern Europe,
 and to hit the people traffickers hard
 to deter their activities.

Colin Bullen,
 Tonbridge

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the
 best service to you, we have produced our 10
 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division
 between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively
 criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise
 broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are
 important to the well-being of the county and
 its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

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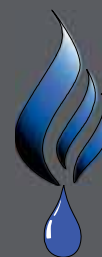


Reculver Tower
by **Peter Banks** from
Blean

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AMBITION: Hyundai has set its sights on becoming the number one Korean car-maker in Europe



Hyundai looks to double Tourer estate's i30 sales

HYUNDAI'S i30 line-up is the 'DNA car', the core model shaping its range as it sets its sights on being the number one Korean car-maker in Europe.

Now the i30 family hatchback has been joined by the Tourer estate priced £17,495 to £25,155 on the road.

Hyundai is looking to double the Tourer's sales share to nearly 20 per cent with entry-level S trim £1,500 less than before and the estate only £500, not £1,500, more than the hatch.

Safety equipment includes lane departure and forward collision warning systems, autonomous emergency braking and hill-start assist.

Five trim levels are offered – S, SE, SE Nav, Premium and Premium SE.

S, only with the 1.0-litre engine, has 15in alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio with USB and auxiliary connections, Bluetooth with steering wheel controls, electric front and rear windows, driver seat height adjustment, cargo screen and safety barrier net.

SE gains 16in alloy wheels, front fog lamps, DAB radio with five-inch LCD touchscreen, rear parking sensors and camera, leather steering wheel, roof rails, chrome belt line and is also available with diesel power.

SE Nav adds satellite navigation with an eight-



inch LCD touchscreen, Bluetooth with voice recognition, wireless phone charging and the 1.4 T-GDi engine.

Premium, which drops the 1.0 T-GDi, includes 17in alloys with uprated Michelin tyres, dual-zone climate control, electronic parking brake with auto hold, privacy glass, heated front seats

in artificial leather and cloth, electric driver's seat, supervision instrument cluster with 4.2in display and front parking sensors, blind spot detection with rear cross traffic alert and LED headlights and rear combination lights.

Premium SE also gets a panoramic sunroof, leather seats and heated steering wheel.



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Micra ups game in supermini stakes

Worthy but dull to dynamic and desirable – our motoring editor Andy Russell finds Nissan's fifth-generation Micra has closed the gap on the star superminis

FOR all its success over 34 years in Europe, Nissan's Micra supermini has always been more reliable than rewarding, worthy but dull rather than dynamic.

The new, fifth-generation Micra is looking to change the image – wider and longer, it's bang up to date with real presence – and Nissan wants it to be a top 10 supermini again.

The three-cylinder petrol models – 71PS 1.0-litre and 90PS 0.9-litre turbo – and four-cylinder 90PS 1.5-litre turbo diesel are shared with Renault's small-car range.

The entry petrol model will be most popular but, for more oomph, the turbo petrol unit is a little cracker with 45 to 55mpg overall.

This small turbo petrol unit's low-down flexibility and punchy mid-range pick-up sees it zipping past slower traffic and cruising comfortably at motorway speeds but I would have liked a sixth gear to cut the revs.

The new Micra is much more entertaining – the dynamic look backed up by the way it drives.

The suspension's stiffer, the ride's firmer but it's more supple at speed and it's improved handling dramati-



cally, more composed and co-ordinated, than soft and springy, through bends.

Nissan sees the new Micra at the heart of the B-segment where small cars are no longer small inside. There's plenty of space up front but,

even with average-sized adults sitting there, it isn't over-endowed with rear legroom, not uncomfortably tight but six-footers would feel the pinch.

What lets the interior down is the amount of hard plastic, especially in



the back with no doorbin in the slabby panel.

The boot is deep and boxy, but it means a high sill, and 60/40 split rear seat backs fold almost flat but are higher than the boot floor.

The driving position has good

Nissan Micra

Price: **from £11,995**
 Engine tested: **898cc, 90PS, three-cylinder turbo petrol**
 Performance: **0-62mph 12.1 seconds; top speed 109mph**
 MPG: **Urban 48.7; extra urban 72.4; combined 61.4**
 CO2 emissions: **104g/km**

adjustment with big, traditional dials and instruments.

Most functions are operated through a high-level touchscreen while heating and ventilation controls are simple buttons and rotary knobs.

It's well screwed together but doesn't feel as solid as some rivals.

The range-topping Tekna test car's reversing camera and bird's-eye-view Around View Monitor were valuable with limited rear visibility.

The All-New Kia Picanto

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



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Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited intends to make an Order on the M20 Motorway in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order would be to authorise the overnight closure of both carriageways of the M20 in between the slip roads at Junction 4 (A228).

These measures would be in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake bridge works and all associated works.

It is expected that the work would last for approximately 9 days starting on or after Friday 8th September 2017. The overnight closures would take place between 22:00 and 06:00 (maximum period).

The Order would come into force on 6 September 2017 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Traffic affected by the closures would be diverted to exit and re-enter the carriageway at Junction 4 (A228).

The temporary closures and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

P Ryder, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2017/M20/177

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Weather disrupts West Indies clash

Kent were denied the chance to push for a famous victory

Cricket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

SAM Billings said it was "a tremendous honour" to captain Kent in an impressive three-day display against the touring West Indies at The Spitfire Ground this week.

The hosts were denied the chance to push for a famous win by lightning and bad light, as the umpires called an end to proceedings just before 5pm with the West Indies on 132 for four – representing a modest overall lead in the match of 66 runs.

Delighted by his side's overall display, wicketkeeper-batsman and Kent's acting skipper, Billings told the club's website: "I felt that one to 11 in our side applied themselves fantastically well and that was all I could ask for."

"Everyone had different motivations of course but it was very easy for me to captain a side of guys who really gave it their all and of course it was a tremendous honour to captain a Kent side for the first time."

"Sean Dickson is going from strength to strength and applied himself well against a decent attack and Zak Crawley showed what an exciting prospect he is."

"At the age of 19, to play an innings of such maturity was a tremendous credit to him."

"The game and this result shows the overall depth we have at the club and performances like this can only strengthen the healthy competition for places."

West Indies batting coach Toby Radford, who previously had spells



SKIPPER: Sam Billings was acting captain this week

Pictures: ADY KERRY

with Middlesex and Glamorgan said afterwards: "Kent bowled in good areas and kept coming at us."

"They swung it away to the right-handers and whenever we batted in this match there was cloud cover and a little bit of juice around."

On day one of the tour match at The Spitfire Ground at the start of the week, batsman Alex Blake was

awarded county cap 214 at the 166th Canterbury Cricket Week.

The 28-year-old is a graduate of the prolific Kent Cricket Academy and made his senior debut at the end of the 2007 season.

The left-hander from Beckenham was presented his cap from Kent President and former all-rounder Charles Rowe.

Westbrook heads for world championships

Sailing

DEAL sailor Catherine Westbrook has been called up by the Great Britain Blind Sailing Team to take part in the World Championships in Wisconsin in September.

Westbrook, who has been totally blind since the age of two, was introduced to sailing at Downs Sailing Club, where she crews for local sailing legend Eric Stiles.

A wish to get experience on bigger boats resulted in her crewing for Cinque Ports Sailing Principal Bernard Sealy, the experience with the set up on the cruising yachts being similar to the keel boats used by the GB team.

"From the first time I sailed with her, I have never doubted her ability



STAR: Catherine Westbrook

nor has anybody else who has crewed with her," Mr Sealy said.

"We treat her as a normal member

of the team and there is very little she cannot undertake - including being on the helm."

"I knew that, if she sailed with Eric, she would be pretty good."

"She is actually a lot better than that."

"But even with her natural ability she has had to put in a lot of hard work with us being often out on the water three or four times per week together with a couple of gym sessions."

"Add that to regular training sessions at Cowes and Windermere and getting recognition has not come easy."

"Catherine was on the mainsheet of Karibia Breeze which won its class and Yacht of the Week at Ramsgate Week."

"She created a huge impression there with some pretty good sailors."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Gills crash out of cup with defeat at Reading

GILLINGHAM'S Carabao Cup campaign ended before it had really got going this week as Andy Pennock's side slumped to a 2-0 defeat away at Reading.

Following a respectable draw on the opening day of the League One season last Saturday, the Gills were comfortably beaten by the Championship side at the Madejski Stadium.

In a game which produced few chances for either side Liam Kelly made the most of his best opportunities, both of his goals powerful efforts from the edge of the box.

After the game, head coach Pennock told the club's official website: "Obviously we are disappointed with the defeat but I thought we gave a good account of ourselves."

"In the first half we had two or three half chances and then just before they scored we had a great chance and their keeper pulled off a very good save from Tom Eaves."

"It's a great stadium to come to, hopefully the young boys get a lot out of this because they deserve their starts."



BOSS: Andy Pennock



PROSPECT: Luke Hopkins in action. Photo by Craig Hobbs Photography

Teenage rider injures wrist in Moto3 race

TEENAGE rider Luke Hopkins' weekend ended prematurely at Thruxton after injuring his wrist in his first Moto3 race.

The 15-year-old from Sittingbourne high-sided at the final chicane at the end of the race and landed awkwardly.

Luke was competing in the seventh round of the Hel Performance Motostar British standard class

Championship at the Hampshire track.

Although the circuit is one of the fastest on the calendar it is unusual in that it doesn't have a main straight but rather a series of sweeping corners.

Luke will be hoping to be back in action for the next round of the World Supersport 300 Championship in Germany on August 18-20.

Hurdler Green falls just short

MAIDSTONE'S Jack Green missed out on a place in the 400m hurdles final at the world championships in London this week.

The 25-year-old, who was crowned British champion last month, finished fourth in his semi-final at the London Stadium but has a second chance of glory this weekend when he takes part in the

4x400m relay, with the final taking place on Sunday.

Also due to be in action this weekend are Green's fellow Kent-based track stars Dina Asher-Smith from Orpington and Adam Gemili from Dartford, as a somewhat disappointing championships for Great Britain's athletes draws to a close.

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